

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
23 May 2002 (23.05.2002)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 02/40614 A1

- (51) International Patent Classification⁷: C09K 19/58, 19/20, C07C 69/76 GREENFIELD, Simon [GB/GB]; 192 Rempstone Road, Wimborne, Dorset BH21 1SY (GB).
- (21) International Application Number: PCT/EP01/10944 (74) Common Representative: MERCK PATENT GMBH; Frankfurter Str. 250, 64293 Darmstadt (DE).
- (22) International Filing Date:
21 September 2001 (21.09.2001) (81) Designated States (*national*): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW.
- (25) Filing Language: English
- (26) Publication Language: English
- (30) Priority Data:
00124365.8 20 November 2000 (20.11.2000) EP
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- (84) Designated States (*regional*): ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).
- Published:
- with international search report
 - before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments
- For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.*

(54) Title: CHIRAL PHOTOISOMERIZABLE COMPOUNDS

(57) Abstract: The invention relates to chiral photoisomerizable compounds of formula (I) wherein X¹, X², X³, X⁴, X⁵ and X⁶ have the meanings given in claim 1, to liquid crystalline mixtures and polymers containing them, and to the use of chiral photoisomerizable compounds, liquid crystalline mixtures and polymers containing them in optical and electrooptical devices like liquid crystal displays or projection systems, inoptical elements like polarizers, retardation films, compensators, colour filters or holographic elements, in liquid crystal pigments and coloured films or coatings for decorative or security applications, cosmetic and pharmaceutical compositions, in nonlinear optics and optical information storage.

WO 02/40614 A1

Chiral Photoisomerizable Compounds

Field of the Invention

5 The invention relates to chiral photoisomerizable compounds, to liquid crystalline mixtures and polymers containing them, and to the use of these chiral photoisomerizable compounds, mixtures and polymers in optical and electrooptical devices like liquid crystal displays or projection systems, optical elements like polarizers, retardation films, compensators, colour filters or holographic
10 elements, in adhesives, synthetic resins with anisotropic mechanical properties, cosmetic and pharmaceutical compositions, diagnostics, liquid crystal pigments, for decorative and security applications, in nonlinear optics, optical information storage or as chiral dopants.

15

Background and Prior Art

Chiral materials which change their chirality upon photoirradiation are known in prior art. For example, photoisomerizable chiral materials
20 were reported which show E-Z or cis-trans isomerization upon photoirradiation and are thereby converted from one chiral form into another chiral form. Further known are photodegradable or (photo)tunable chiral materials (TCM) that change from chiral to achiral or to a racemic mixture upon photoirradiation, due to
25 destruction of their chirality by photoelimination or photocleavage of the chiral center.

Photoisomerizable chiral materials have been suggested inter alia for the preparation of cholesteric polymer films with patterned optical
30 properties, which can be used as optical components like colour filters or broadband reflective polarizers in liquid crystal displays. The preparation of patterned cholesteric films is described for example in WO 00/34808.

35

Furthermore, photoisomerizable and phototunable chiral materials have been suggested for use in cholesteric or multi-domain liquid crystal displays.

5 For example, WO 98/57223 discloses a multi-domain liquid crystal display with a nematic liquid crystal material comprising a polymerizable menthone derivative as photoisomerizable chiral dopant. The display comprises different sub-pixels in which the twist
10 sense of the liquid crystal material is mutually opposite. It is manufactured by photoirradiation of a layer of liquid crystalline material containing a photoisomerizable chiral dopant with a given twist sense and a non-isomerizable chiral dopant with opposite twist sense through a photomask. This causes the isomerizable dopant in the exposed parts of the layer to change its chirality, leading to a
15 change of the helical pitch in the exposed parts.

US 5,668,614 discloses a multicolour cholesteric display made from a cholesteric liquid crystal mixture comprising a tunable chiral material (TCM). The display is prepared by partially exposing the
20 liquid crystal mixture with the TCM to photoirradiation through a photomask. This leads to a change of the chirality of the TCM by photocleavage or photoracemisation and thus to a change of the helical pitch in the exposed parts of the cholesteric liquid crystal material. Thereby regions with different pitch and thus different
25 colours of the reflected wavelength are obtained and a multicolour display is realized.

Photoisomerizable chiral materials comprising menthone, camphor or nopinone derivatives or chiral stilbenes have been reported by P.
30 van de Witte et al., *Liq. Cryst.* 24 (1998), 819-27, *J. Mat. Chem.* 9 (1999), 2087-94 and *Liq. Cryst.* 27 (2000), 929-33 and A. Bobrovski et al., *Liq. Cryst.* 25 (1998), 679-687.

Tunable chiral materials (TCMs) comprising a photocleavable
35 carboxylic acid group or aromatic keto group attached to the chiral center are disclosed in US 5,668,614. Furthermore, F. Vicentini, J.

Cho and L. Chien, *Liq. Cryst.* 24 (1998), 483–488 describe binaphthol derivatives as TCMs and their use in multicolour cholesteric displays.

5 However, the isomerizable and tunable chiral materials of prior art have several drawbacks. The TCMs reported in US 5,668,614 and by F. Vicentini et al. have the general disadvantage that photocleavage is an irreversible process and leads to destruction of the chiral compound. The photoisomerizable menthone and stilbene derivatives disclosed in WO 98/57223 and the articles of P. van de
10 Witte et al. and A. Bobrovsky et al. have the disadvantage that they are not easily structurally modified due to a lack of functionality.

Another drawback of many photoisomerizable compounds known from prior art is that they exhibit only a low helical twisting power
15 (HTP). The HTP describes the effectiveness of a chiral compound to induce a helically twisted molecular structure in a liquid crystal host material, and is given in first approximation, which is sufficient for most practical applications, by equation (1) :

20
$$\text{HTP} = \frac{1}{p \cdot c} \quad (1)$$

wherein c is the concentration of the chiral compound and p is the helical pitch. As can be seen from equation (1), a short pitch can be achieved by using a high amount of the chiral compound or by using
25 a chiral compound with a high absolute value of the HTP. Thus, in case chiral compounds with low HTP are used, high amounts are needed to induce a short pitch. This is disadvantageous, because chiral compounds often negatively affect the properties of the liquid crystalline host mixture, like for example the clearing point, the dielectric anisotropy $\Delta\epsilon$, the viscosity, the driving voltage or the
30 switching times, and because chiral compounds can be used only as pure enantiomers and are therefore expensive and difficult to synthesize.

35 Another disadvantage of chiral compounds of prior art is that they often show low solubility in the liquid crystal host mixture, which leads to undesired crystallization at low temperatures. To overcome

5 this disadvantage, typically two or more different chiral compounds have to be added to the host mixture. This implies higher costs and also requires additional effort for temperature compensation of the mixture, as the different chiral compounds usually have to be selected such that their temperature coefficients of the twist compensate each other.

10 Therefore, there is a considerable demand for chiral photoisomerizable compounds with a high HTP which are easy to synthesize in a large range of derivatives, can be used in low amounts, show improved temperature stability of the cholesteric pitch e.g. for utilizing a constant reflection wavelength, do not affect the properties of the liquid crystalline host mixture and show good solubility in the host mixture.

15 The invention has the aim of providing chiral photoisomerizable compounds having these properties, but not having the disadvantages of the chiral compounds of prior art as discussed above. Another aim of the invention is to extend the pool of chiral photoisomerizable compounds available to the expert.

20 It has been found that the above aims can be achieved by providing photoisomerizable chiral compounds according to claim 1.

25 Definition of Terms

30 The terms 'liquid crystalline or mesogenic material' or 'liquid crystalline or mesogenic compound' should denote materials or compounds comprising one or more rod-shaped, lath-shaped or disk-shaped mesogenic groups, i.e. groups with the ability to induce liquid crystal phase behaviour. Rod-shaped and lath-shaped mesogenic groups are especially preferred. The compounds or materials comprising mesogenic groups do not necessarily have to exhibit a liquid crystal phase themselves. It is also possible that they show
35 liquid crystal phase behaviour only in mixtures with other

compounds, or when the mesogenic compounds or materials, or the mixtures thereof, are polymerized.

5 For the sake of simplicity, the term 'liquid crystal material' is used hereinafter for both liquid crystal materials and mesogenic materials, and the term 'mesogen' is used for the mesogenic groups of the material.

10 The term 'helically twisted structure' refers to anisotropic materials, like for example liquid crystal materials, that exhibit a chiral mesophase wherein the mesogens are oriented with their main molecular axis twisted around a helix axis, like e.g. a chiral nematic (=cholesteric) or a chiral smectic phase. Materials exhibiting a cholesteric phase or chiral smectic C phase are preferred. Particularly preferred are materials exhibiting a cholesteric phase.

15 The term 'film' includes self-supporting, i.e. free-standing, films that show more or less pronounced mechanical stability and flexibility, as well as coatings or layers on a supporting substrate or between two substrates.

20 The term "photoisomerizable group" means a group that shows isomerization, for example cis-trans or E-Z isomerization, imparting a change in shape upon photoirradiation with a suitable wavelength, preferably in the range from 250 to 400 nm, very preferably from 300 to 400 nm.

25

Brief Description of the Drawings

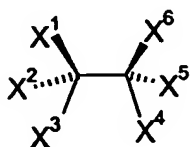
30 Figure 1 depicts the reflection spectrum of polymer films P1-P5 according to example 10, prepared by polymerizing a mixture comprising an inventive photoisomerizable compound after photoisomerization for different periods of time.

35 Figure 2 depicts the central wavelength of reflection of films P1-P5 versus photoisomerization time.

Summary of the Invention

One object of the invention are chiral photoisomerizable compounds of formula I

5



I

10

wherein

15

X^1 , X^2 , X^3 , X^4 , X^5 and X^6 independently of each other denote H, straight chain or branched alkyl with 1 to 20 C atoms wherein one or more CH_2 groups can also be replaced by -O-, -S-, -CO-, $-\text{NR}^0$ -, -CH=CH-, or $-\text{C}\equiv\text{C}-$ in such a manner that O and/or S atoms are not linked directly to one another and wherein one or more H-atoms can also be replaced by F or Cl, or denote an aliphatic or aromatic carbocyclic or heterocyclic group with 3 to 40 C atoms that may also comprise fused and/or substituted rings, or two of X^1 , X^2 , X^3 , X^4 , X^5 and X^6 may also together form a cyclic group with up to 40 C atoms,

20

25

with the provisos that $X^1 \neq X^2 \neq X^3$ and $X^4 \neq X^5 \neq X^6$, and that the compound comprises at least one photoisomerizable group and at least one mesogenic group, or at least one group that is photoisomerizable and mesogenic.

30

Another object of the invention is a liquid crystalline mixture containing at least one compound of formula I.

35

Another object of the present invention is a polymerizable liquid crystalline mixture comprising at least two compounds, at least one of which is a compound of formula I and at least one of which is a polymerizable compound.

Another object of the invention is a chiral linear or crosslinked anisotropic polymer obtainable by polymerizing a polymerizable liquid crystalline mixture comprising one or more compounds of formula I.

5 Another object of the invention is the use of a chiral compound, mixture or polymer as described above in optical and electrooptical devices like liquid crystal displays or projection systems, such as STN, TN, AMD-TN, temperature compensation, ferroelectric, guest-host, phase change or surface stabilized or polymer stabilized
10 cholesteric texture (SSCT, PSCT) displays, in optical elements, like reflective polarizers, retardation films, compensators, colour filters or holographic elements, especially in reflective films with patterned optical properties, in adhesives, synthetic resins with anisotropic mechanical properties, cosmetic and pharmaceutical compositions,
15 diagnostics, liquid crystal pigments, for decorative and security applications, especially in security markings that are applied to items or documents of value for easy identification or prevention of falsification, in nonlinear optics, optical recording or information storage, or as chiral dopants.

20 Another object of the invention is an anisotropic polymer film comprising a compound of formula I.

25 Another object of the invention is a reflective polymer film with patterned optical properties comprising a compound of formula I, in particular a cholesteric polymer film having different regions with different reflection wavelength.

30 Another object of the invention is a broadband reflective polarizer or colour filter comprising a compound of formula I.

Another object of the invention is a liquid crystal display comprising a liquid crystalline mixture or a polymerizable liquid crystalline mixture comprising at least one chiral compound of formula I.

35

Another object of the invention is a liquid crystal display comprising an optical component, in particular a broadband reflective polarizer or colour filter, comprising a compound of formula I.

5 Detailed Description of the Invention

10 The inventive chiral photoisomerizable compounds are mesogenic or liquid crystalline, i.e. they can induce or enhance mesophase behaviour for example in a mixture with other compounds or exhibit one or more mesophases themselves. It is also possible that the inventive compounds show mesophase behaviour only in mixtures with other compounds, or, in case of polymerizable compounds, when being (co)polymerized. Mesogenic inventive compounds are especially preferred.

15 The inventive compounds have several advantages

- they can easily be synthesized, also on large scale of several hundred grams, with a broad range of derivatives using standard methods that are known from the literature,
- 20 • the starting materials can be obtained commercially or synthesized cheaply using methods known from the literature
- they can be prepared enantiomerically pure as compounds of different handedness (left handed and right handed), enabling both left and right handed helices to be formed in a nematic host,
- 25 • the availability of both helices is a considerable advantage, e.g. for the use in security applications, as it enables the production of chiral films or coatings reflecting circularly polarized light of a single handedness,
- 30 • they exhibit a high HTP,
- they exhibit a good solubility in liquid crystalline mixtures,
- they exhibit broad liquid crystalline phases,

35

- when inventive compounds are used as chiral dopant in a liquid crystalline mixture, due to their high solubility higher amounts of dopant can be used to produce a high twist (= a low pitch),
- 5 • in case high amounts of dopants are needed, due to the broad liquid crystalline phases of the inventive dopants the liquid crystal phase of the host mixture is less negatively influenced,
- due to their high HTP, lower amounts of inventive dopants are needed to achieve a high pitch, and thereby the liquid crystalline properties of the mixture are less negatively affected,
- 10 • liquid crystalline mixtures comprising one or more inventive dopants show a considerably improved low temperature stability,
- nematic liquid crystalline mixtures comprising one or more inventive dopants show a reduced temperature dependence of the threshold voltage when used in electrically switchable displays,
- 15

Preferably the compounds of formula I comprise one or more polymerizable groups.

20 Particularly preferred are compounds of formula I, wherein

X^1 , X^2 , X^3 , X^4 , X^5 and X^6 are selected from

- 25 a) H or straight chain or branched alkyl with 1 to 20 C atoms wherein one or more CH_2 groups can also be replaced by -O-, -S-, -CO-, -NR⁰-, -CH=CH-, -C≡C- in such a manner that O and/or S atoms are not linked directly to one another and wherein one or more H-atoms can also be replaced with F or Cl,
- 30 b) -B-(Sp)_n-G, and
- c) -B-(Sp)_n-(M¹-Z¹)_i-(PI)_k-(Z²-M²)_r-R,

35

wherein two of X^1 , X^2 , X^3 , X^4 , X^5 and X^6 may also form together a cyclic group with up to 40 C atoms that is optionally substituted with one or more groups R, and

- 5 $X^1 \neq X^2 \neq X^3$ and $X^4 \neq X^5 \neq X^6$,
- R^0 is H or alkyl with 1 to 4 C atoms,
- 10 G is an aliphatic or aromatic carbocyclic or heterocyclic group with 3 to 40 C atoms that may also comprise fused rings and may also be substituted with one or more groups R,
- 15 R is H, halogen, NO_2 , CN, SCN, SF_5 , straight chain, branched or cyclic alkyl with 1 to 25 C atoms wherein one or more CH_2 groups can also be replaced by -O-, -S-, -CO-, - NR^0 -, -CH=CH-, -C \equiv C- in such a manner that O and/or S atoms are not linked directly to one another, and wherein one or more H-atoms can also be replaced
- 20 by F or Cl, or P-(Sp) $_n$,
- P is a polymerizable group,
- 25 Sp is a spacer group with 1 to 20 C atoms,
- n is 0 or 1,
- 30 B is -O-, -S-, - NR^0 -, -O-CO-, - NR^0 -CO-, -O-COO-, -OCH $_2$ -, -S-CO-, -S-COO- or a single bond,
- PI is a photoisomerizable group that may in addition be mesogenic,
- 35 M^1 and M^2 are independently of each other a mesogenic group,
- i, k and l are independently of each other 0 or 1,

5 Z^1 and Z^2 are independently of each other -O-, -S-, -CO-, -COO-, -OCO-, -CO-NR⁰-, -NR⁰-CO-, -CH₂CH₂-, -CF₂CF₂-, -CH₂CF₂-, -OCH₂-, -CH₂O-, -SCH₂-, -CH₂S-, -CF₂O-, -OCF₂-, -CH=CH-, -CF=CF-, -CH=CF-, -(CH₂)₄-, -CH=CH-COO-, -OCO-CH=CH-, -C≡C- or a single bond, and

10 at least one of X^1 , X^2 , X^3 , X^4 , X^5 and X^6 is -B-Sp-(M¹-Z¹)_r-(PI)_k-(Z²-M²)_r-G, and k in at least one of those groups is 1.

15 Particularly preferred are compounds of formula I comprising one to six, in particular one to four, very preferably one or two polymerizable groups P.

Further preferred are compounds of formula I comprising one to four, in particular one or two photoisomerizable groups PI.

20 Further preferred are compounds of formula I wherein $X^1 = X^6$, $X^2 = X^5$ and $X^3 = X^4$.

25 Further preferred are compounds of formula I, wherein one or more, in particular one or two of X^1 to X^6 are selected from the groups as defined in a). Very preferably these groups are selected from H, alkyl, alkenyl, alkoxy, alkenyloxy, alkylcarbonyl or alkylcarbonyloxy with 1 to 12 C-atoms that is optionally fluorinated, or have one of the meanings of P.

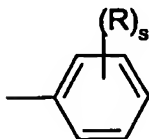
30 Further preferred are compounds of formula I, wherein one or more, in particular one or two of X^1 to X^6 are -B-(Sp)_n-G, wherein B is a linkage group, Sp a spacer group and G a cyclic group as defined in formula I, and n is 0 or 1. In these compounds B is preferably -O-, -COO-, -O-COO- or a single bond, very preferably -COO- or a single bond, and n is preferably 0.

35

The cyclic group G is preferably selected from cyclobutane, cyclopentane, 3-(1,1,-dimethylcyclopentane), 2-tetrahydrofuran, 1-pyrrolidine, 2-furan, 2-pyrrol, 2-thiophene, 2-oxazole, 2-thiazole, 2-imidazole, 3-pyrrolidin-2-one, cyclohexane, 1-cyclohexene, 2-tetrahydropyran, 1-piperidine, 3-tetrahydrothiopyrane, 4-(1,3-dioxane), 1,4-dioxane, 2-(1,3,-
 5 dithiane), 1,4-dithiane, 2-oxathiane, 4-thiomorpholine, 4-morpholine, phenylene, 2-pyridine, 2-pyrimidine, 2-pyrazine, 4-bicyclohexane, 4'-bicyclohexyl-2-ene, 1-cyclohexane-1,4-dione, 1-bicyclo[2,2,2]octylene, 3-cyclohexenone, 3-hexahydro-furo[3,2-b]furan, 2-(1,4-dioxa-
 10 spiro[4.5]decane), 2-naphthalene, 2-decahydronaphthalene, 5-(1,2,3,4-tetrahydronaphthalene, 2-anthracene and 9-phenanthrene.

Particularly preferably one or more of the groups G denote

15



with R having the meaning of formula I and s being 0, 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5.

20

Further preferred are compounds of formula I wherein one to five, in particular one to four of X¹ to X⁶ denote H, cyclohexyl, phenyl that is optionally substituted with 1 to 4 groups L as defined in formula II, or -(COO)_o-S with o being 0 or 1 and S being alkyl with 1 to 4 C atoms.

25

Further preferred are compounds of formula I wherein two of X¹ to X⁶, in particular the groups X¹ and X⁶ or the groups X² and X⁵ or the groups X³ and X⁴ are H.

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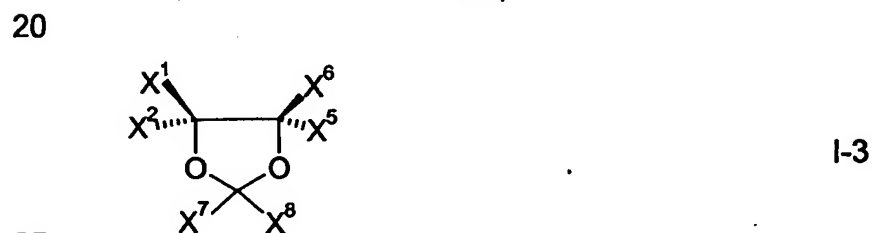
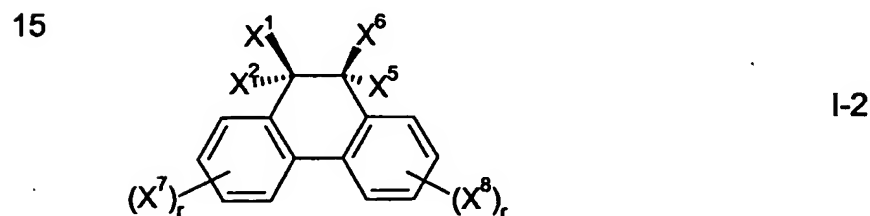
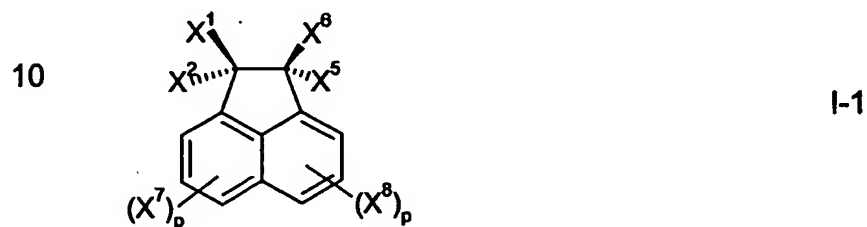
Further preferred are compounds wherein two of X¹ to X⁶, in particular the groups X¹ and X⁶ or the groups X² and X⁵ or the groups X³ and X⁴ are cyclohexyl or phenyl that is optionally substituted with 1 or 2 groups L as defined in formula II.

35

Further preferred are compounds wherein one of X¹ to X⁶ is H and one of X¹ to X⁶ is cyclohexyl, phenyl that is optionally substituted with 1 to 4 groups L as defined in formula II, or -(COO)_o-S with o being 0

or 1 and S being alkyl with 1 to 4 C atoms, in particular those wherein one of X^1 and X^6 or one of X^2 and X^5 or one of X^3 and X^4 is H and the other is cyclohexyl, phenyl or $-(COO)_6-S$.

- 5 Further preferred are compounds, wherein two of X^1, X^2, X^3, X^4, X^5 and X^6 together form a cyclic group with up to 40 C atoms. Preferred compounds of this type are selected from the following formulae



wherein

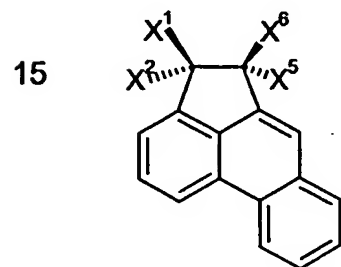
- 30 X^7 and X^8 are independently of each other halogen, NO_2 , CN, SCN , SF_5 , straight chain or branched alkyl with 1 to 25 C atoms wherein one or more CH_2 groups can also be replaced by $-O-$, $-S-$, $-CO-$, $-NR^0-$, $-CH=CH-$, $-C\equiv C-$ in such a manner that O and/or S atoms are not linked directly to one another, and wherein one or more H-atoms can also be replaced by F or Cl, or denote a
- 35 cycloalkyl, phenyl, benzyl or fused carbocyclic or

heterocyclic aliphatic or aromatic group with up to 25 C atoms that is optionally substituted with one or more groups R as defined in formula I, or P-(Sp)_n,

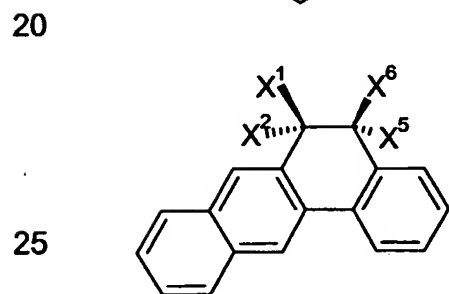
5 p is in each case independently 0, 1, 2 or 3, and

 r is in each case independently 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4.

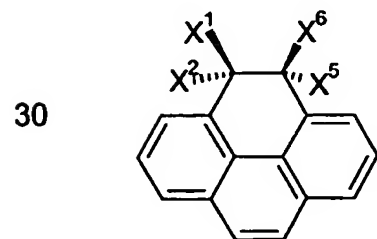
10 In the above formula, two substituents X⁷ or X⁸ in neighboured positions on a phenyl ring can also form a fused carbocyclic or heterocyclic aliphatic or aromatic group with up to 25 C atoms, like for example in the following compounds



I-1a



I-2a



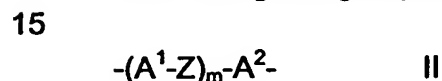
I-2b

35 wherein the aromatic rings may also be mono- or polysubstituted with R as defined in formula I.

Particularly preferred are compounds of formula I wherein one to six, in particular one, two, three or four, very preferably one or two of X^1 to X^6 denote $-B-(Sp)_n-(M^1-Z^1)_r-(PI)_k-(Z^2-M^2)_l-R$. Very preferred compounds of this type are those wherein two of X^1 to X^6 , in particular the groups X^1 and X^6 or the groups X^1 and X^5 denote $-B-(Sp)_n-(M^1-Z^1)_r-(PI)_k-(Z^2-M^2)_l-R$, especially those wherein the two groups $-B-(Sp)_n-(M^1-Z^1)_r-(PI)_k-(Z^2-M^2)_l-R$ are identical.

The compounds of formula I comprise at least one mesogenic group, which can be a photoisomerizable group PI that is in addition mesogenic, or a separate mesogenic group M^1 or M^2 .

The mesogenic groups M^1 and M^2 are preferably of formula II



wherein

A^1 and A^2 are independently of each other selected from

- A) 1,4-phenylene in which, in addition, one or more CH groups may be replaced by N,
- B) 1,4-cyclohexylene in which, in addition, one or two non-adjacent CH_2 groups may be replaced by O and/or S,
- C) 1,3-dioxolane-4,5-diyl, 1,4-cyclohexenylenyl, piperidine-1,4-diyl, 1,4-bicyclo-(2,2,2)-octylene, naphthalene-2,6-diyl, decahydro-naphthalene-2,6-diyl, 1,2,3,4-tetrahydronaphthalene-2,6-diyl or indane-2,5-diyl,

it being possible for all these groups to be unsubstituted, mono- or polysubstituted with L,

5 L is halogen, CN, SCN, NO₂, SF₅ or an alkyl, alkoxy, alkylcarbonyl or alkoxy carbonyl group with 1 to 4 C atoms, wherein one or more H atoms may be substituted with F or Cl,

Z has in each case independently one of the meanings of Z¹ in formula I, and

10 m is 0, 1, 2 or 3.

Alternatively A¹ and/or A² can have one of the above meanings of G.

15 The mesogenic groups M¹ and/or M² preferably incorporate two or three five- or six-membered rings.

20 A smaller group of preferred mesogenic groups of formula II is listed below. For reasons of simplicity, Phe in these groups is 1,4-phenylene that may also be substituted with 1 to 4 groups L as defined in formula I, Cyc is 1,4-cyclohexylene and Z has one of the meanings of formula I. The list is comprising the following subformulae as well as their mirror images

| | | |
|----|-------------------|-------|
| 25 | -Phe- | II-1 |
| | -Cyc- | II-2 |
| | -Phe-Z-Phe- | II-3 |
| | -Phe-Z-Cyc- | II-4 |
| | -Cyc-Z-Cyc- | II-5 |
| | -Phe-Z-Phe-Z-Phe- | II-6 |
| 30 | -Phe-Z-Phe-Z-Cyc- | II-7 |
| | -Phe-Z-Cyc-Z-Phe- | II-8 |
| | -Cyc-Z-Phe-Z-Cyc- | II-9 |
| | -Phe-Z-Cyc-Z-Cyc- | II-10 |
| 35 | -Cyc-Z-Cyc-Z-Cyc- | II-11 |

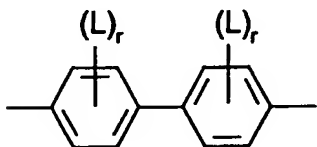
Particularly preferred are the subformulae II-1, II-2, II-3, II-4, II-5, II-7 and II-10.

Z is preferably -COO-, -OCO-, -CH₂CH₂- or a single bond.

5

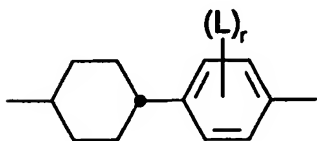
Very preferably the mesogenic groups M¹ and M² are selected from the following formulae and their mirror images

10



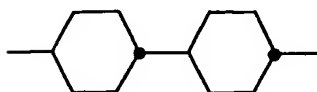
IIa

15



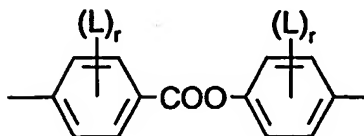
IIb

20



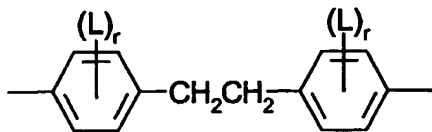
IIc

25



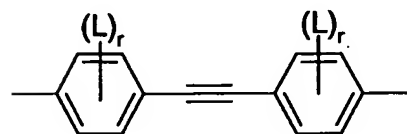
IIId

30

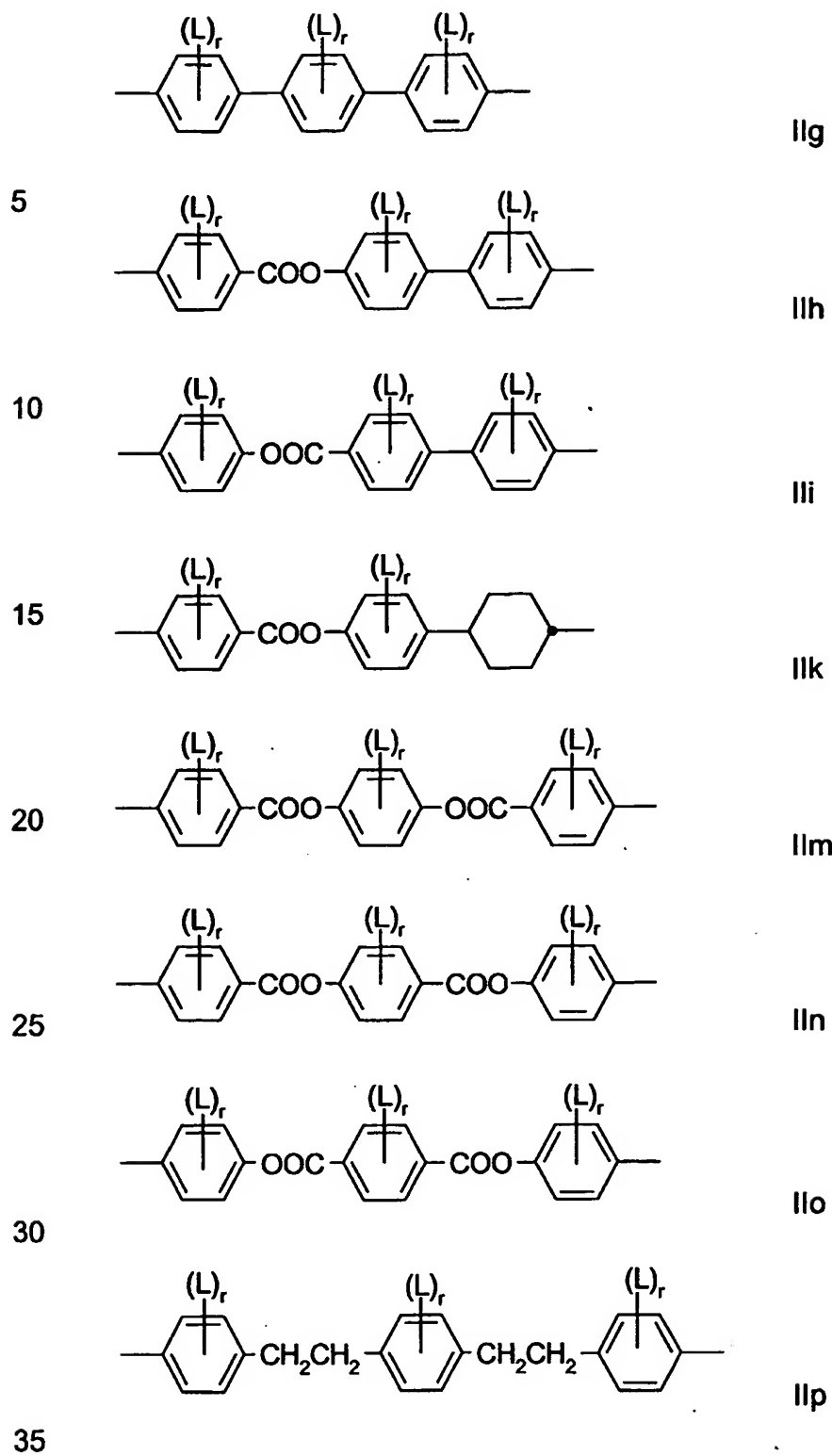


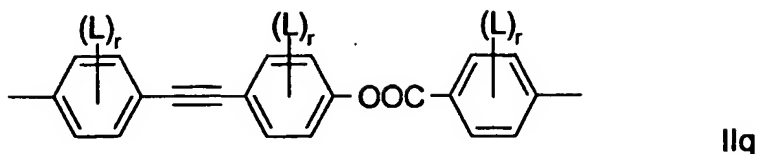
IIe

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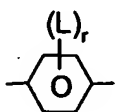
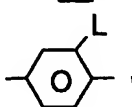
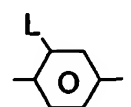
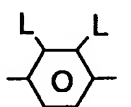
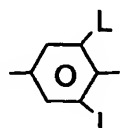


IIIf





5 wherein L and r have the above meanings, and r is preferably 0, 1 or 2.

10 The group  in these preferred formulae is very preferably denoting , , or , furthermore ,

with L having each independently one of the meanings given above.

15 Particularly preferred are the subformulae IId, IIg, IIh, Ili, IIk and Ilo, in particular the subformulae IId and IIk.

20 L is preferably F, Cl, CN, NO₂, CH₃, C₂H₅, OCH₃, OC₂H₅, COCH₃, COC₂H₅, COOCH₃, COOC₂H₅, CF₃, OCF₃, OCHF₂ or OC₂F₅, in particular F, Cl, CN, CH₃, C₂H₅, OCH₃, COCH₃, CF₃ or OCF₃, most preferably F, Cl, CH₃, OCH₃ or OCF₃.

25 The compounds of formula I comprise at least one photoisomerizable group PI. The photoisomerizable group PI can be every group that is known to the skilled in the art for this purpose, as for example disclosed in John C. Coyle, "Introduction to Organo Photochemistry" 1986, John Wiley and Sons, Chichester, UK.

30 Preferably the photoisomerizable group PI is of formula III



wherein

35

- 20 -

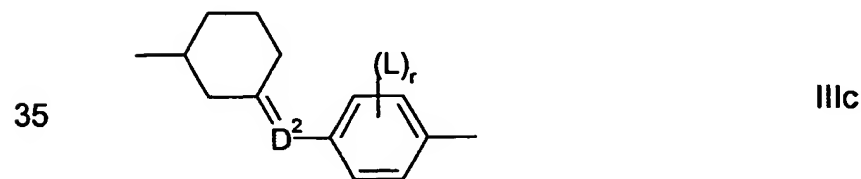
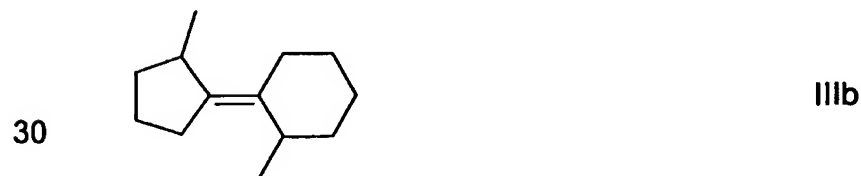
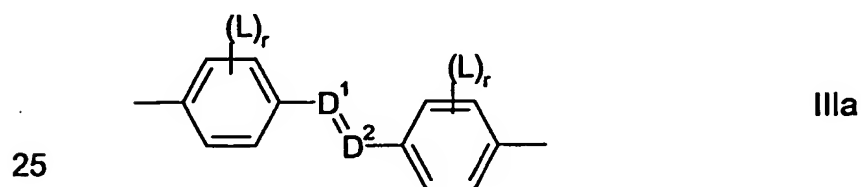
D¹ and D² are independently of each other CH or N or a saturated C atom in a carbocyclic or heterocyclic 5- or 6-membered ring, and

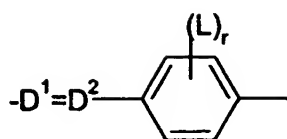
5 C¹ and C² are independently of each other a bivalent aliphatic or aromatic carbocyclic or heterocyclic group with 3 to 40 C atoms that may also comprise fused rings, C¹ and D¹ or C² and D² may also together form a 5- or 6-membered carbocycle or heterocycle, and C¹ may also denote a
10 single bond.

Preferably C¹ and C² have independently of each other one of the meanings of A¹ as defined in formula II, and D¹ and D² are
15 independently of each other CH or N. Further preferred are compounds wherein C¹ is a single bond.

Very preferably D¹ and D² denote CH. Further preferred are compounds wherein D¹ and D² denote N.

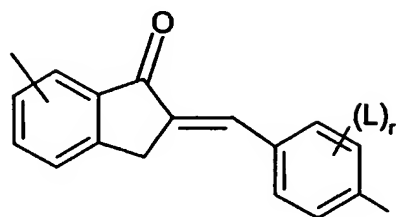
20 Particularly preferably PI is selected from the following formulae





IIIId

5



IIIe

10

wherein D^1 and D^2 are CH or N, L has the meaning of formula II, and r has the meaning given above.

15

Particularly preferred are groups IIIId, especially those wherein D^1 and D^2 are CH.

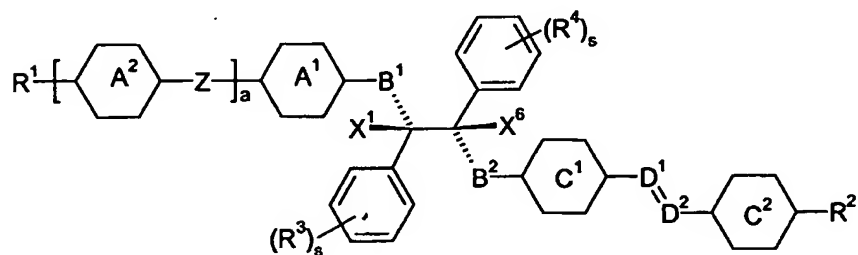
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Particularly preferred are compounds of formula I comprising at least one, preferably one or two groups $-B-(Sp)_n-(M^1-Z^1)_i-(PI)_k-(Z^2-M^2)_r-R$, wherein B is $-OCO-$, n and i are 0, k is 1 and PI is of formula IIIId, so that the rest $-B-(Sp)_n-(M^1-Z^1)_i-(PI)_k-$ forms a cinnamate group.

25

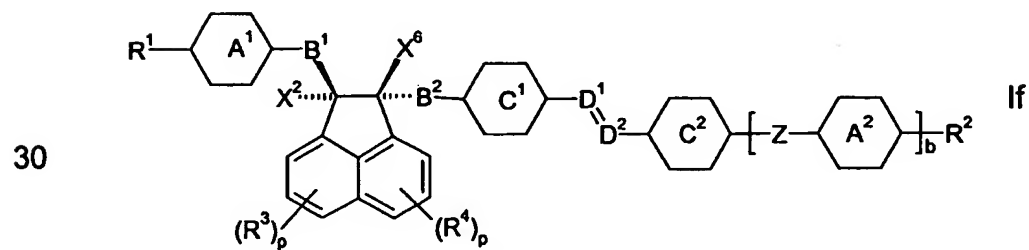
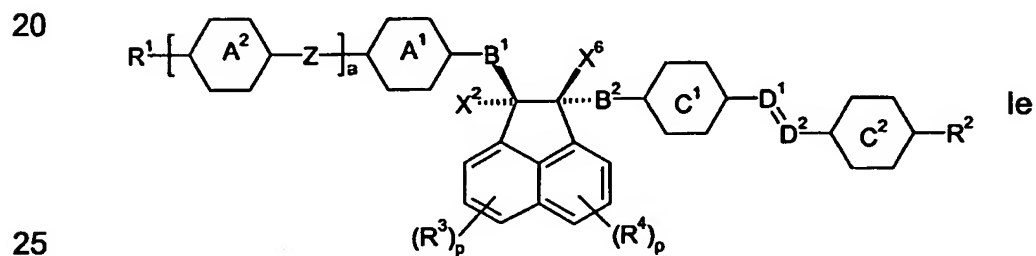
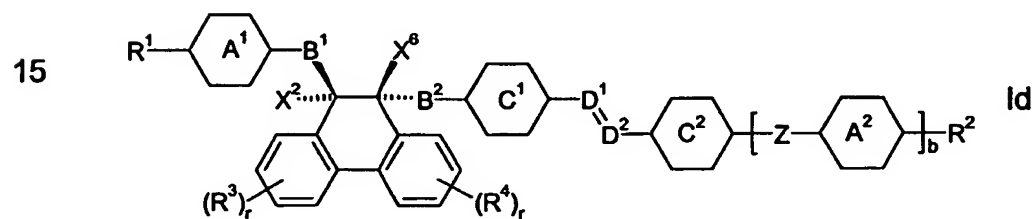
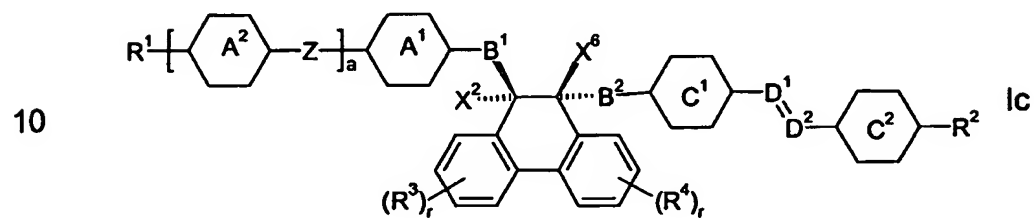
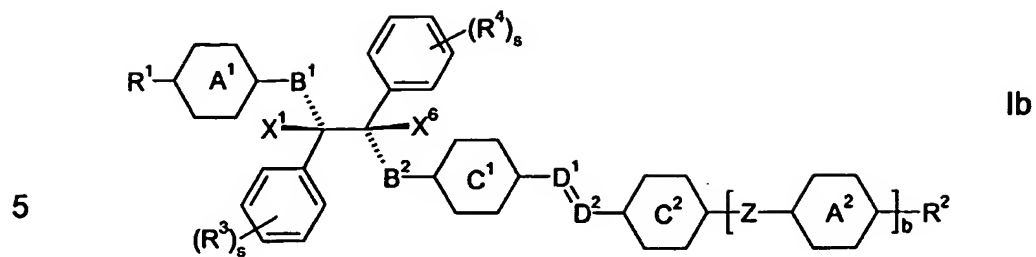
Further preferred are compounds of formula I, wherein PI is of formula III and C^1 and/or C^2 are a mesogenic group of formula II. In case these compounds comprise additional mesogenic groups M^1 or M^2 , these may be the same or different as C^1 and/or C^2 .

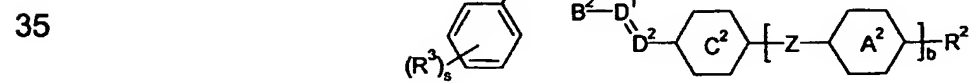
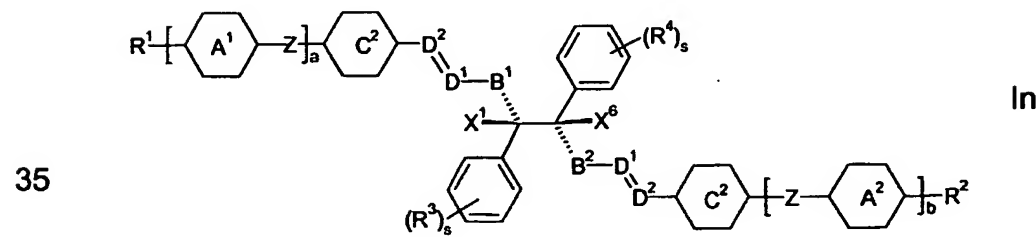
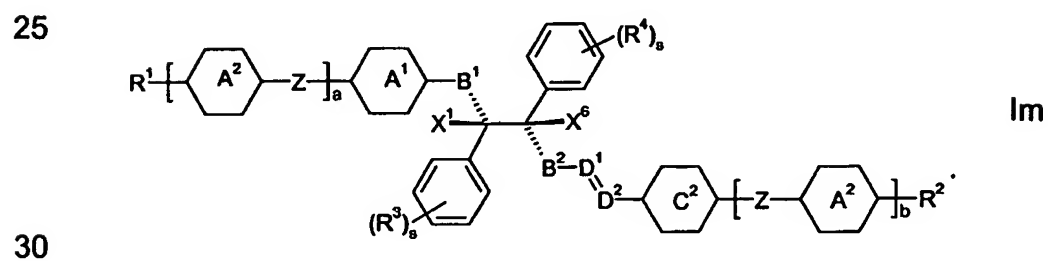
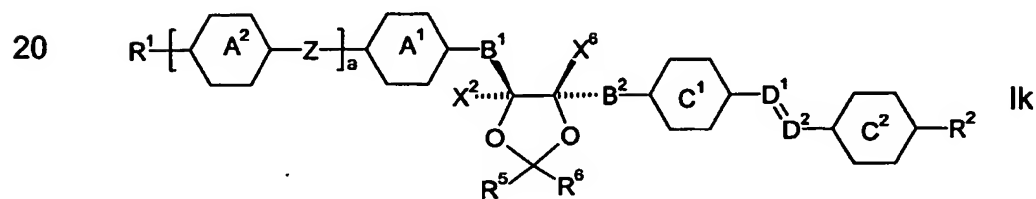
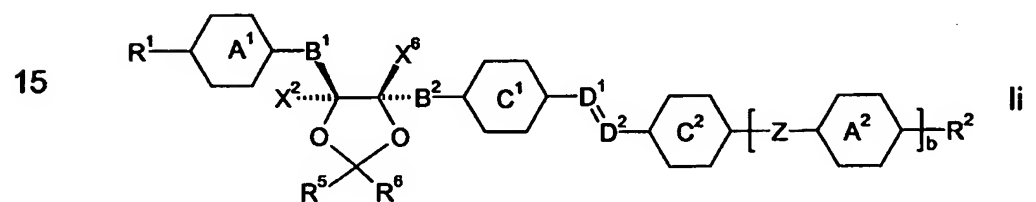
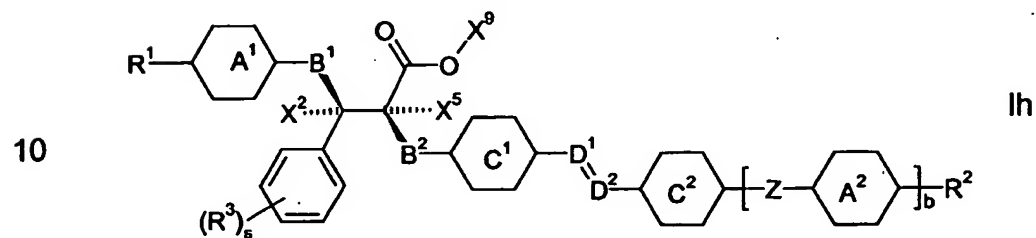
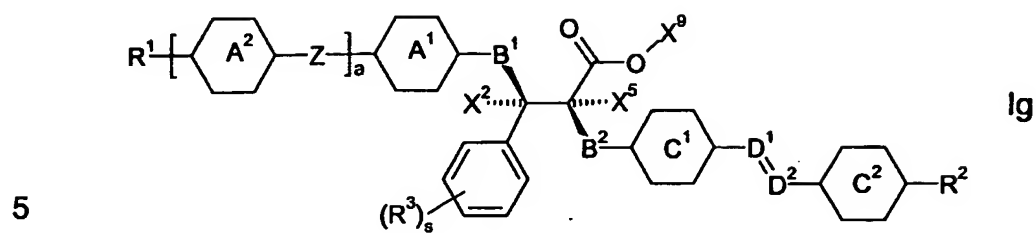
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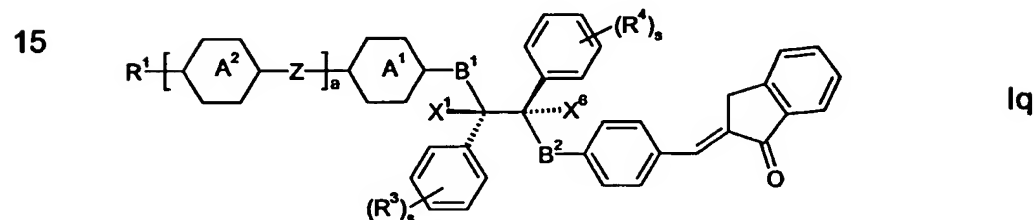
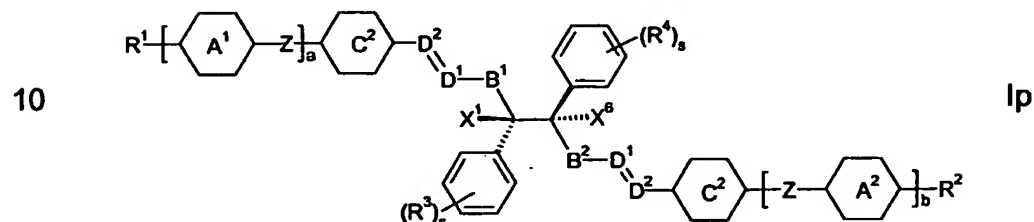
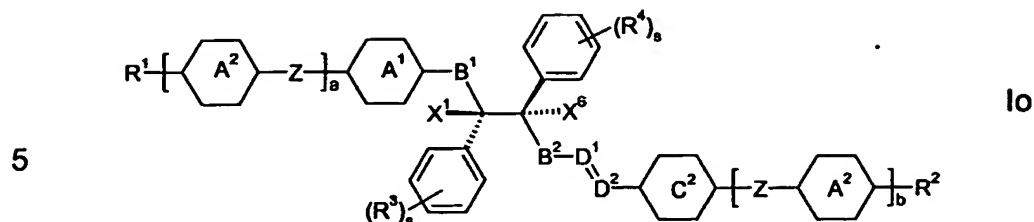


Ia

35







20

wherein

25

$\text{A}^{1,2}$ has one of the meanings of $\text{A}^{1,2}$ in formula II and $\text{C}^{1,2}$ has one of the meanings $\text{C}^{1,2}$ in formula III, and $\text{A}^{1,2}$ and $\text{C}^{1,2}$ are preferably selected from groups A) and B) of formula II,

30

X^1 , X^2 , X^6 , Z , D^1 , D^2 , p , r and s have one of the meanings given above,

B^1 and B^2 have independently of each other one of the meanings of B given above,

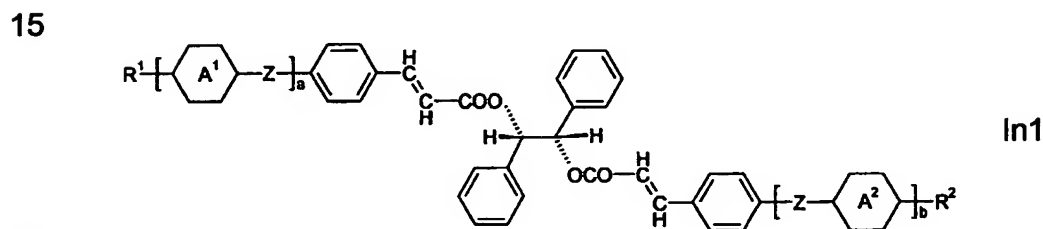
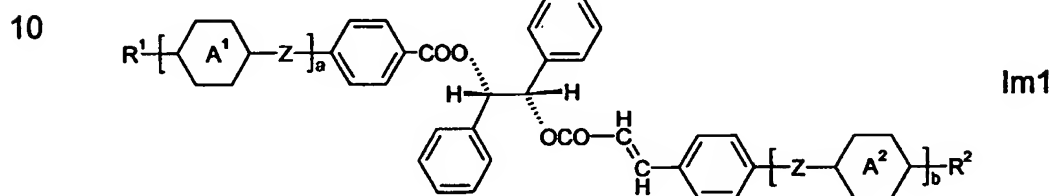
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R^1 , R^2 , R^3 , R^4 , R^5 and R^6 have independently of each other one of the meanings of R given above,

- 5 X^9 is straight chain or branched alkyl with 1 to 25 C atoms wherein one or more CH_2 groups can also be replaced by -O-, -S-, -CO-, -NR⁰-, -CH=CH-, -C≡C- in such a manner that O and/or S atoms are not linked directly to one another, and wherein one or more H-atoms can also be replaced by F or Cl, or denotes a cycloalkyl, phenyl, benzyl or fused carbocyclic or heterocyclic aliphatic or aromatic group with up to 25 C atoms that is optionally substituted with one or more groups R or L as defined in formula I, or P-(Sp)_n,
- 10 a is 0, 1, 2 or 3, and
- b is 0, 1 or 2.
- 15 Particularly preferred are compounds of subformulae Ia to In wherein
- A¹ and A² are cyclohexyl or phenyl that may also be substituted with one to four, preferably one or two groups L as defined above,
 - Z is -COO-, -OCO-, -CH₂CH₂- or a single bond,
 - 20 - C¹ and C² are cyclohexyl or phenyl that may also be substituted with one to four, preferably one or two groups L as defined above,
 - D¹ and D² are CH,
 - X¹ and X² are H,
 - 25 - B¹ is COO and B² is OCO,
 - R¹ and R² are F, Cl, CN, alkyl or alkoxy with 1 to 10 C atoms, or P-(Sp)_n-
 - one or both of R¹ and R² denote P-(Sp)_n-,
 - 30 - R³ and R⁴ have of the meanings of L given above or denote P-(Sp)_n-, and preferably are F, Cl, CN or optionally fluorinated alkyl or alkoxy with 1 to 3 C atoms,
 - p, r and s are each independently 0, 1 or 2,
 - 35 - R⁵ and R⁶ are alkyl or alkoxy with 1 to 4 C atoms or denote P-(Sp)_n-, and preferably are methyl, ethyl or propyl,

- X^9 is straight chain, branched or cyclic alkyl or alkyloxy with 1 to 12 C atoms, or phenyl that is optionally substituted with one, two or three groups L as defined above,
- a is 0 or 1,
- b is 1.

Very preferred are compounds of the following subformulae



wherein R^1 , R^2 , Z, A^1 , A^2 , a and b have the meanings given above, in particular those wherein a and b are 0 and R^1 and R^2 are P-Sp.

25 If R in formula I is an alkyl or alkoxy radical, i.e. where the terminal CH_2 group is replaced by -O-, this may be straight-chain or branched. It is preferably straight-chain, has 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 or 8 carbon atoms and accordingly is preferably ethyl, propyl, butyl, pentyl, hexyl, heptyl, octyl, ethoxy, propoxy, butoxy, pentoxy, hexoxy, heptoxy, or octoxy,

30 furthermore methyl, nonyl, decyl, undecyl, dodecyl, tridecyl, tetradecyl, pentadecyl, nonoxy, decoxy, undecoxy, dodecoxy, tridecoxy or tetradecoxy, for example.

Especially preferred is straight chain alkyl or alkoxy with 1 to 8 C atoms.

35

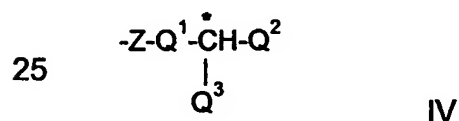
Oxaalkyl, i.e. where one CH₂ group is replaced by -O-, is preferably straight-chain 2-oxapropyl (=methoxymethyl), 2- (=ethoxymethyl) or 3-oxabutyl (=2-methoxyethyl), 2-, 3-, or 4-oxapentyl, 2-, 3-, 4-, or 5-oxahexyl, 2-, 3-, 4-, 5-, or 6-oxaheptyl, 2-, 3-, 4-, 5-, 6- or 7-oxaoctyl, 2-, 3-, 4-, 5-, 6-, 7- or 8-oxanonyl or 2-, 3-, 4-, 5-, 6-, 7-, 8- or 9-oxadecyl, for example.

R in formula I can be a polar or an unpolar group.

In case of a polar group, it is preferably selected from CN, NO₂, halogen, OCH₃, SCN, COR⁸, COOR⁸ or a mono- oligo- or polyfluorinated alkyl or alkoxy group with 1 to 4 C atoms. R⁸ is optionally fluorinated alkyl with 1 to 4, preferably 1 to 3 C atoms. Especially preferably polar groups are selected of F, Cl, CN, NO₂, OCH₃, COCH₃, COC₂H₅, COOCH₃, COOC₂H₅, CF₃, C₂F₅, OCF₃, OCHF₂, and OC₂F₅, in particular of F, Cl, CN, OCH₃ and OCF₃.

In case of an unpolar group, it is preferably alkyl with up to 15 C atoms or alkoxy with 2 to 15 C atoms.

R in formula I can be an achiral or a chiral group. In case of a chiral group it is preferably selected according to formula IV:



wherein

Z³ is -O-, -S-, -CO-, -COO-, -OCO-, -OCOO- or a single bond,

Q¹ is an alkylene or alkylene-oxy group with 1 to 9 C atoms or a single bond,

Q² is an alkyl or alkoxy group with 1 to 10 C atoms which may be unsubstituted, mono- or polysubstituted with halogen or CN, it

being also possible for one or more non-adjacent CH₂ groups to be replaced, in each case independently from one another, by -C≡C-, -O-, -S-, -NR⁰-, -CO-, -COO-, -OCO-, -OCO-O-, -S-CO- or -CO-S- in such a manner that oxygen atoms are not linked directly to one another,

Q³ is halogen, a cyano group or an alkyl or alkoxy group with 1 to 4 C atoms different from Q².

In case Q¹ in formula IV is an alkylene-oxy group, the O atom is preferably adjacent to the chiral C atom.

Preferred chiral groups are 2-alkyl, 2-alkoxy, 2-methylalkyl, 2-methylalkoxy, 2-fluoroalkyl, 2-fluoroalkoxy, 2-(2-ethin)-alkyl, 2-(2-ethin)-alkoxy, 1,1,1-trifluoro-2-alkyl and 1,1,1-trifluoro-2-alkoxy.

Particularly preferred chiral groups are 2-butyl (=1-methylpropyl), 2-methylbutyl, 2-methylpentyl, 3-methylpentyl, 2-ethylhexyl, 2-propylpentyl, in particular 2-methylbutyl, 2-methylbutoxy, 2-methylpentoxy, 3-methylpentoxy, 2-ethylhexoxy, 1-methylhexoxy, 2-octyloxy, 2-oxa-3-methylbutyl, 3-oxa-4-methylpentyl, 4-methylhexyl, 2-hexyl, 2-octyl, 2-nonyl, 2-decyl, 2-dodecyl, 6-methoxyoctoxy, 6-methyloctoxy, 6-methyloctanoyloxy, 5-methylheptyloxycarbonyl, 2-methylbutyryloxy, 3-methylvaleryloxy, 4-methylhexanoyloxy, 2-chloropropionyloxy, 2-chloro-3-methylbutyryloxy, 2-chloro-4-methylvaleryloxy, 2-chloro-3-methylvaleryloxy, 2-methyl-3-oxapentyl, 2-methyl-3-oxahexyl, 1-methoxypropyl-2-oxy, 1-ethoxypropyl-2-oxy, 1-propoxypropyl-2-oxy, 1-butoxypropyl-2-oxy, 2-fluorooctyloxy, 2-fluorodecyloxy, 1,1,1-trifluoro-2-octyloxy, 1,1,1-trifluoro-2-octyl, 2-fluoromethyloctyloxy for example. Very preferred are 2-hexyl, 2-octyl, 2-octyloxy, 1,1,1-trifluoro-2-hexyl, 1,1,1-trifluoro-2-octyl and 1,1,1-trifluoro-2-octyloxy, for example.

In addition, compounds of formula I containing an achiral branched group R may occasionally be of importance, for example, due to a reduction in the tendency towards crystallization. Branched groups of

this type generally do not contain more than one chain branch.
Preferred achiral branched groups are isopropyl, isobutyl
(=methylpropyl), isopentyl (=3-methylbutyl), isopropoxy, 2-methyl-
propoxy and 3-methylbutoxy.


5

Another preferred embodiment of the present invention relates to
compounds of formula I wherein R is denoting $P-(Sp)_n$.

R^0 in formula I is preferably H or CH_3 , in particular H.

10

The polymerisable group P is preferably selected from $CH_2=CW^1-COO-$

, $W^2HC-\text{CH}_2-$, W^2  $(CH_2)_k-O-$, $CH_2=CW^2-O-$, $CH_3-CH=CH-O-$,
15 $HO-CW^2W^3-$, $HS-CW^2W^3-$, HW^2N- , $HO-CW^2W^3-NH-$, $CH_2=CW^1-CO-$
 $NH-$, $CH_2=CH-(COO)_{k1}-Phe-(O)_{k2}-$, $Phe-CH=CH-$, $HOOC-$, $OCN-$ and
 $W^4W^5W^6Si-$, with W^1 being H, Cl, CN, phenyl or alkyl with 1 to 5 C-
atoms, in particular H, Cl or CH_3 , W^2 and W^3 being independently of
each other H or alkyl with 1 to 5 C-atoms, in particular methyl, ethyl or
20 n-propyl, W^4 , W^5 and W^6 being independently of each other Cl, oxaalkyl
or oxacarbonylalkyl with 1 to 5 C-atoms, Phe being 1,4-phenylene and
 k_1 and k_2 being independently of each other 0 or 1.

P is particularly preferably an acrylate, methacrylate, vinyl, vinyloxy,
25 epoxy, styrene or propenyl ether group, in particular an acrylate,
methacrylate, vinyl or epoxy group.

As spacer group Sp in formula I all groups can be used that are
known for this purpose to the skilled in the art. Sp is preferably a
30 straight chain or branched alkylene group having 1 to 20 C atoms, in
particular 1 to 12 C atoms, in which, in addition, one or more non-
adjacent CH_2 groups may be replaced by $-O-$, $-S-$, $-NR^0-$, $-CO-$, $-O-$
 $CO-$, $-S-CO-$, $-O-COO-$, $-CO-S-$, $-CO-O-$, $-CH(\text{halogen})-$, $-CH(CN)-$,
 $-CH(OH)-$, $-(CF_2)_x-$, $-(CD_2)_x-$, $-CH=CH-$, $-CF=CF-$, $-CH=CF-$ or $-C\equiv C-$,
35 with x being an integer from 1 to 12, and in which one or more H
atoms may be replaced by halogen, CN or OH.

Typical spacer groups are for example $-(CH_2)_y-$, $-(CH_2CH_2O)_z-CH_2CH_2-$, $-CH_2CH_2-S-CH_2CH_2-$ or $-CH_2CH_2-NH-CH_2CH_2-$, with y being an integer from 2 to 12 and p being an integer from 1 to 3.

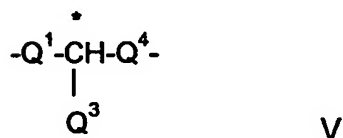
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Preferred spacer groups are ethylene, propylene, butylene, pentylene, hexylene, heptylene, octylene, nonylene, decylene, undecylene, dodecylene, octadecylene, ethyleneoxyethylene, methyleneoxybutylene, ethylene-thioethylene, ethylene-N-methyl-
 10 iminoethylene, 1-methylalkylene, ethenylene, propenylene and butenylene for example.

Especially preferred are inventive compounds of formula I wherein Sp is denoting alkylene or alkylene-oxy with 2 to 8 C atoms. Straight-
 15 chain groups are especially preferred.

In another preferred embodiment of the invention the compounds of formula I comprise at least one spacer group Sp that is a chiral group of formula V:

20



25 wherein

Q^1 and Q^3 have the meanings given in formula IV, and

30 Q^4 is an alkylene or alkylene-oxy group with 1 to 10 C atoms or a single bond, being different from Q^1 .

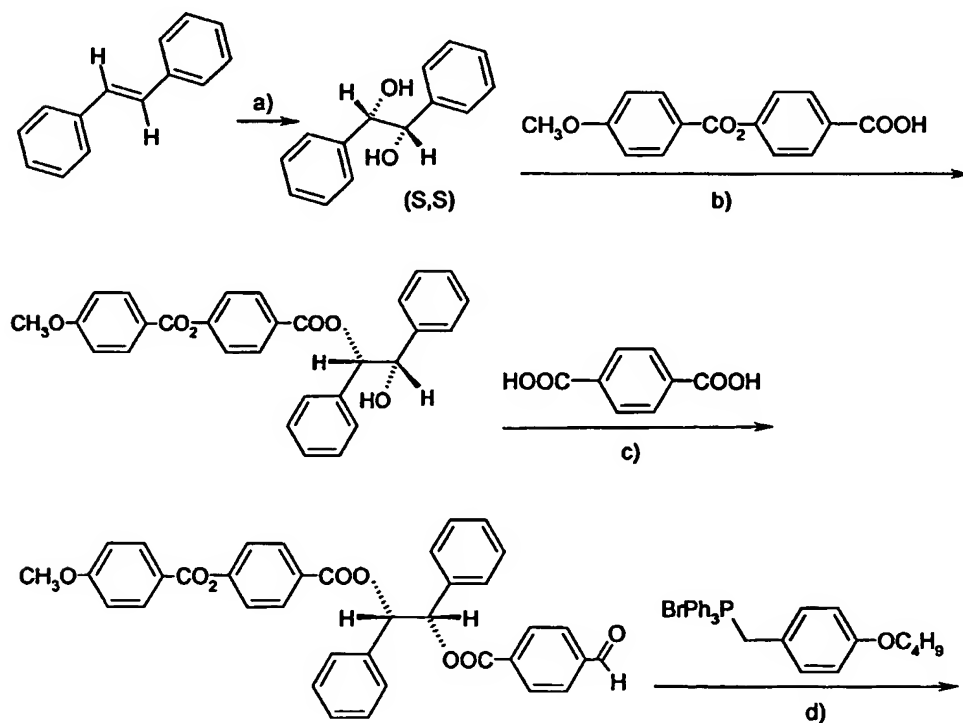
In case Q^1 in formula V is an alkylene-oxy group, the O atom is preferably adjacent to the chiral C atom.

35 Throughout this text, halogen is preferably F or Cl.

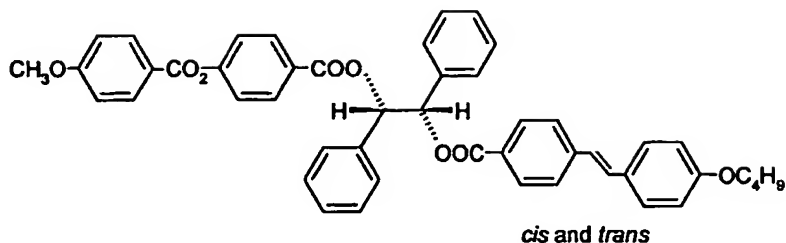
The inventive chiral compounds can be synthesized according to or in analogy to methods which are known per se, as described in the literature (for example in the standard works such as Houben-Weyl, Methoden der Organischen Chemie [Methods of Organic Chemistry], Georg-Thieme-Verlag, Stuttgart), to be precise under reaction conditions which are known and suitable for said reactions. Use may also be made here of variants which are known per se, but are not mentioned here. Further methods for preparing the inventive compounds can be taken from the examples.

In particular, the inventive compounds can be prepared according to or in analogy to the following reaction schemes.

Scheme 1



5



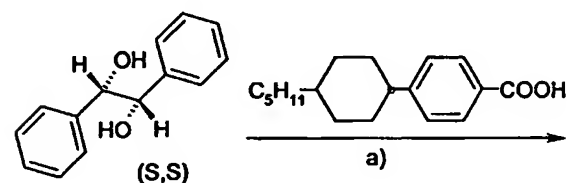
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a) (DHQ)₂-PHAL, N-methylmorpholine N-oxide, t-butanol, potassium osmate (VI) dihydrate, r.t.; b) DCC, 4-(dimethylamino)-pyridine, DCM, r.t.; c) DCC, 4-(dimethylamino)-pyridine, DCM, r.t.; d) potassium t-butoxide, THF, -5 °C.

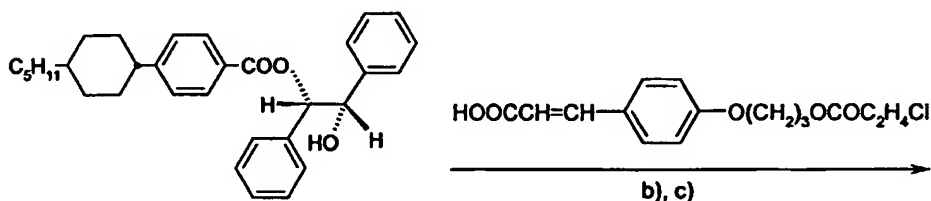
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Scheme 2

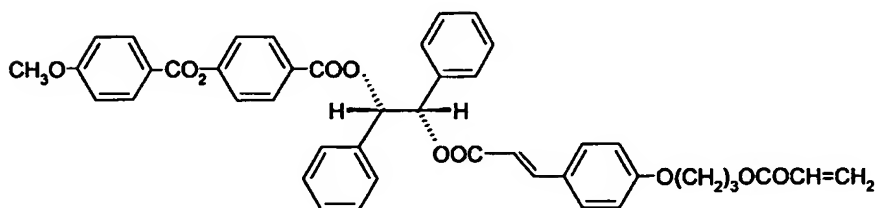
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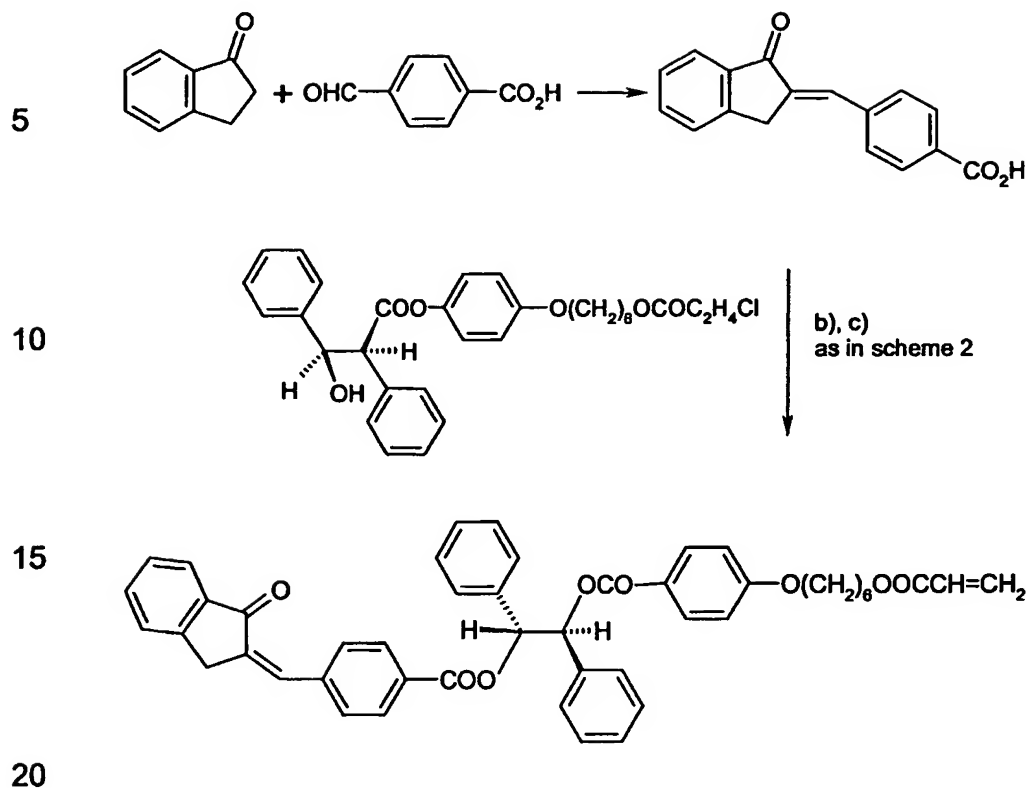


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35

a) DCC, 4-(dimethylamino)-pyridine, DCM, r.t.; b) DCC, 4-(dimethylamino)-pyridine, DCM, r.t.; c) NEt₃, 35 °C.

Scheme 3

The inventive chiral compounds can be used in a liquid crystal mixture for liquid crystal displays exhibiting a twisted molecular structure of the liquid crystal matrix like, for example, twisted or supertwisted nematic displays with multiplex or active matrix addressing, or in displays comprising a liquid crystal mixture with a chiral liquid crystalline phase, like for example chiral smectic or chiral nematic (cholesteric) mixtures for ferroelectric or cholesteric displays.

The inventive compounds, mixtures and polymers are especially suitable for cholesteric displays, like for example surface stabilized or polymer stabilized cholesteric texture displays (SSCT, PSCT) as described in WO 92/19695, WO 93/23496, US 5,453,863 or US 5,493,430, in particular for liquid crystal devices with variable pitch, like multi-domain liquid crystal displays as described for example in WO 98/57223, or multicolour cholesteric displays as described for example in US 5,668,614.

The entire disclosure of the above mentioned documents is introduced into this application by way of reference.

5 The inventive compounds of formula I are also suitable for use in photochromic liquid crystal media, which change their colour upon photoradiation.

10 Thus, another object of the invention is a liquid crystalline mixture comprising at least one chiral compound of formula I.

15 Yet another object of the invention are cholesteric liquid crystal displays comprising cholesteric liquid crystalline media containing at least one chiral compound of formula I.

20 Many of the inventive compounds are characterized by a good solubility in liquid crystalline host mixtures, and can be added as dopants to liquid crystalline hosts in high amounts without significantly affecting the phase behaviour and electrooptical properties of the mixture. Undesired spontaneous crystallization at low temperatures is thereby reduced and the operating temperature range of the mixture can be broadened. Furthermore, these chiral compounds can be used for the preparation of a highly twisted liquid crystal medium even if they have a low HTP, because the dopant concentration can be increased to yield low pitch values (i.e. high twist) without affecting the mixture properties. The use of a second dopant, which is often added to avoid crystallization, can thus be avoided.

30 Many of the inventive chiral compounds of formula I exhibit high values of the HTP. A liquid crystalline mixture with high helical twist, i.e. a low pitch, can be prepared by using these compounds as dopants, or a liquid crystalline mixture with moderate helical twist can be achieved by using these inventive compounds as dopants already in very small amounts.

35

As mentioned above, the inventive compounds are furthermore advantageous because they are affecting the physical properties of the liquid crystalline mixture only to a minor extent.

- 5 Thus, when admixing the chiral compounds of formula I for example to a liquid crystalline mixture with positive dielectric anisotropy that is used in a liquid crystal display, $\Delta\epsilon$ is being only slightly reduced and the viscosity of the liquid crystalline mixture is increased only to a small extent. This leads to lower voltages and improved switching
10 times of the display when compared to a display comprising conventional dopants.

- A liquid crystalline mixture according to the invention comprises preferably 0.1 to 30 %, in particular 1 to 25 % and very particularly
15 preferably 2 to 15 % by weight of chiral compounds of formula I.

A liquid crystalline mixture according to the invention preferably comprises 1 to 3 chiral compounds of formula I.

- 20 In a preferred embodiment of the invention the liquid crystalline mixture is consisting of 2 to 25, preferably 3 to 15 compounds, at least one of which is a chiral compound of formula I. The other compounds are preferably low molecular weight liquid crystalline compounds selected from nematic or nematogenic substances, for example from
25 the known classes of the azoxybenzenes, benzylidene-anilines, biphenyls, terphenyls, phenyl or cyclohexyl benzoates, phenyl or cyclohexyl esters of cyclohexanecarboxylic acid, phenyl or cyclohexyl esters of cyclohexylbenzoic acid, phenyl or cyclohexyl esters of cyclohexylcyclohexanecarboxylic acid, cyclohexylphenyl
30 esters of benzoic acid, of cyclohexanecarboxylic acid and of cyclohexylcyclohexanecarboxylic acid, phenylcyclohexanes, cyclohexylbiphenyls, phenylcyclohexylcyclohexanes, cyclohexylcyclohexanes, cyclohexylcyclohexenes, cyclohexylcyclohexylcyclohexenes, 1,4-bis-cyclohexylbenzenes, 4,4'-bis-cyclohexylbiphenyls, phenyl- or cyclohexylpyrimidines, phenyl- or cyclohexylpyridines, phenyl- or cyclohexylpyridazines, phenyl- or cyclohexyldioxanes, phenyl- or cyclo-

hexyl-1,3-dithianes, 1,2-diphenyl-ethanes, 1,2-dicyclohexylethanes, 1-phenyl-2-cyclohexylethanes, 1-cyclohexyl-2-(4-phenylcyclohexyl)-ethanes, 1-cyclohexyl-2-biphenyl-ethanes, 1-phenyl-2-cyclohexyl-phenylethanes, optionally halogenated stilbenes, benzyl phenyl ether, tolanes, substituted cinnamic acids and further classes of nematic or nematogenic substances. The 1,4-phenylene groups in these compounds may also be laterally mono- or difluorinated.

The liquid crystalline mixture of this preferred embodiment is based on the achiral compounds of this type.

The most important compounds that are possible as components of these liquid crystalline mixtures can be characterized by the following formula



wherein L' and E, which may be identical or different, are in each case, independently from one another, a bivalent radical from the group formed by -Phe-, -Cyc-, -Phe-Phe-, -Phe-Cyc-, -Cyc-Cyc-, -Pyr-, -Dio-, -B-Phe- and -B-Cyc- and their mirror images, where Phe is unsubstituted or fluorine-substituted 1,4-phenylene, Cyc is trans-1,4-cyclohexylene or 1,4-cyclohexenylene, Pyr is pyrimidine-2,5-diyl or pyridine-2,5-diyl, Dio is 1,3-dioxane-2,5-diyl and B is 2-(trans-1,4-cyclohexyl)ethyl, pyrimidine-2,5-diyl, pyridine-2,5-diyl or 1,3-dioxane-2,5-diyl.

G' in these compounds is selected from the following bivalent groups -CH=CH-, -N(O)N-, -CH=CY-, -CH=N(O)-, -C≡C-, -CH₂-CH₂-, -CO-O-, -CH₂-O-, -CO-S-, -CH₂-S-, -CH=N-, -COO-Phe-COO- or a single bond, with Y being halogen, preferably chlorine, or -CN.

R' and R'' are, in each case, independently of one another, alkyl, alkenyl, alkoxy, alkenyloxy, alkanoyloxy, alkoxycarbonyl or alkoxycarbonyloxy with 1 to 18, preferably 3 to 12 C atoms, or alternatively one of R' and R'' is F, CF₃, OCF₃, Cl, NCS or CN.

5 In most of these compounds R' and R'' are, in each case, independently of each another, alkyl, alkenyl or alkoxy with different chain length, wherein the sum of C atoms in nematic media generally is between 2 and 9, preferably between 2 and 7.

10 Many of these compounds or mixtures thereof are commercially available. All of these compounds are either known or can be prepared by methods which are known per se, as described in the literature (for example in the standard works such as Houben-Weyl, Methoden der Organischen Chemie [Methods of Organic Chemistry], Georg-Thieme-Verlag, Stuttgart), to be precise under reaction conditions which are known and suitable for said reactions. Use may also be made here of variants which are known per se, but are not
15 mentioned here.

20 A preferred use of the inventive compounds is the preparation of polymerizable liquid crystalline mixtures, anisotropic polymer gels and anisotropic polymer films, in particular polymer films that exhibit a helically twisted molecular structure with uniform planar orientation, i.e. wherein the helical axis is oriented perpendicular to the plane of the film, like oriented cholesteric films.

25 Anisotropic polymer gels and displays comprising them are disclosed for example in DE 195 04 224 and GB 2 279 659.

30 Oriented cholesteric polymer films can be used for example as broadband reflective polarizers, colour filters, security markings, or for the preparation of liquid crystal pigments.

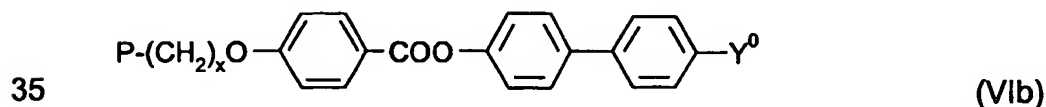
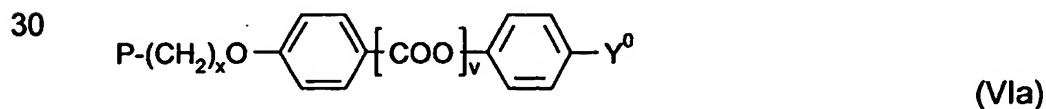
Broadband cholesteric reflective polarizers are described for example in EP 0 606 940, WO 97/35219 or EP 0 982 605. Colour filters are described for example in EP 0 720 041 or EP 0 685 749 and R. Maurer et al., SID 1990 Digest, 110-113. Liquid crystal
35 pigments are described for example in EP 0 601 483, WO 97/27251, WO 97/27252, WO 97/30136 or WO 99/11719.

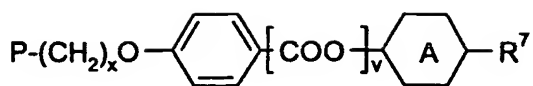
For the preparation of anisotropic polymer gels or oriented polymer films, the liquid crystalline mixture should comprise at least one polymerizable compound, preferably a polymerizable mesogenic compound.

Thus, another object of the invention are polymerizable liquid crystalline mixtures comprising at least two compounds, at least one of which is a chiral compound of formula I and at least one of which is a polymerizable compound. The polymerizable compound can be said at least one compound of formula I or an additional compound.

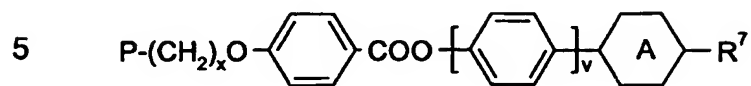
Examples of suitable polymerizable mesogenic compounds that can be used as co-components in the polymerizable mixture are disclosed for example in WO 93/22397; EP 0,261,712; DE 195,04,224; WO 95/22586 and WO 97/00600. The compounds disclosed in these documents, however, are to be regarded merely as examples that shall not limit the scope of this invention. Preferably the polymerizable mixture comprises at least one polymerizable mesogenic compound having one polymerizable functional group and at least one polymerizable mesogenic compound having two or more polymerizable functional groups.

Examples of especially useful monoreactive chiral and achiral polymerizable mesogenic compounds are shown in the following list of compounds, which should, however, be taken only as illustrative and is in no way intended to restrict, but instead to explain the present invention:

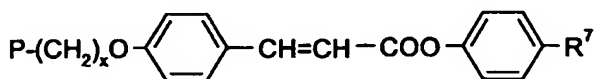




(VIc)

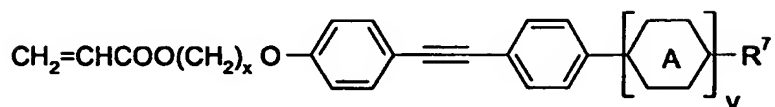


(VIId)



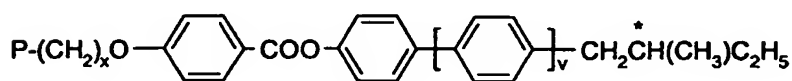
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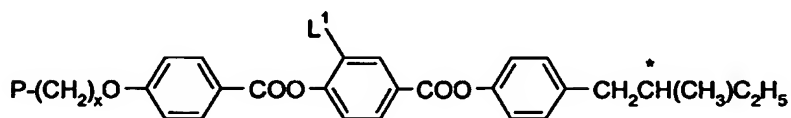
(VIf)

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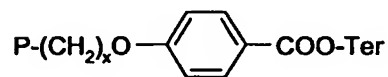


(VIg)

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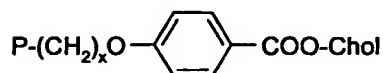


(VIh)



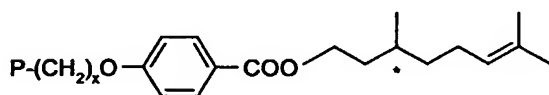
(VIi)

25



(VIk)

30



(VIIm)

wherein, P has one of the meanings given above, x is an integer from 1 to 12, A is 1,4-phenylene or 1,4-cyclohexylene, v is 0 or 1, Y^0 is a polar group, R^7 is an unpolar alkyl or alkoxy group, Ter is a terpenoid radical like e.g. menthyl, Chol is a cholesteryl group, and L^1

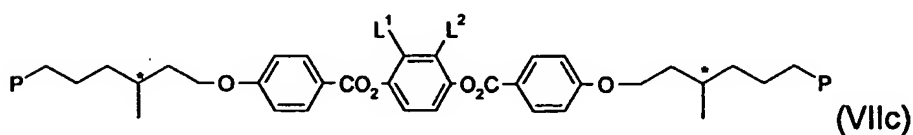
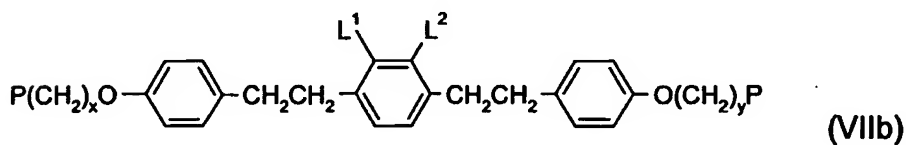
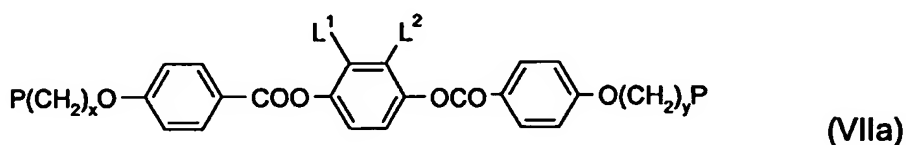
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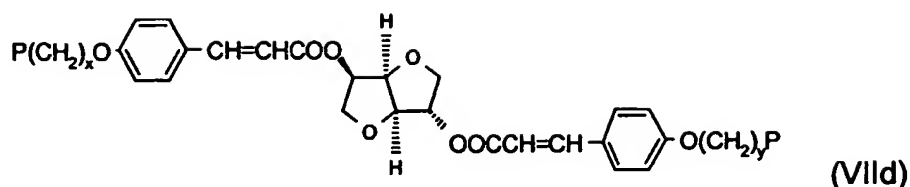
and L^2 are each independently H, F, Cl, CN, OH, NO_2 or an optionally halogenated alkyl, alkoxy or carbonyl group with 1 to 7 C atoms.

- 5 The polar group Y^0 is preferably CN, NO_2 , halogen, OCH_3 , OCN, SCN, COR^8 , $COOR^8$ or a mono- oligo- or polyfluorinated alkyl or alkoxy group with 1 to 4 C atoms. R^8 is optionally fluorinated alkyl with 1 to 4, preferably 1 to 3 C atoms. Especially preferably the polar group Y^0 is selected of F, Cl, CN, NO_2 , OCH_3 , $COCH_3$, COC_2H_5 ,
 10 $COOCH_3$, $COOC_2H_5$, CF_3 , C_2F_5 , OCF_3 , $OCHF_2$, and OC_2F_5 , in particular F, Cl, CN, OCH_3 and OCF_3 .

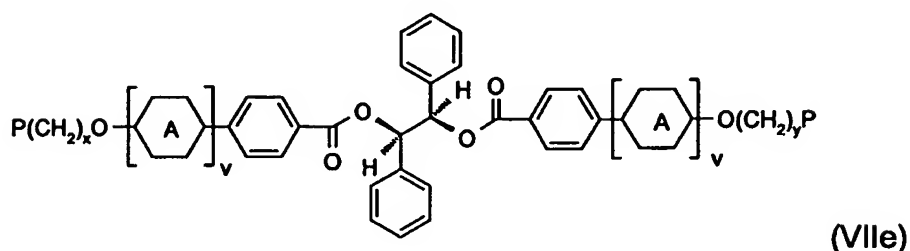
- The unpolar group R^7 is preferably an alkyl group with 1 or more, preferably 1 to 15 C atoms or an alkoxy group with 2 or more,
 15 preferably 2 to 15 C atoms.

- Examples of useful direactive chiral and achiral polymerizable mesogenic compounds are shown in the following list of compounds, which should, however, be taken only as illustrative and is in no way
 20 intended to restrict, but instead to explain the present invention





5



10

wherein P, x, A, L¹ and L² have one of the meanings given above
and y is an integer from 1 to 12 the same as or different from x.

15

The mono- and difunctional polymerizable mesogenic compounds of
above formulae VI and VII can be prepared by methods which are
known per se and which are described in the documents cited above
and, for example, in standard works of organic chemistry such as,
for example, Houben-Weyl, Methoden der organischen Chemie,
Thieme-Verlag, Stuttgart.

20

In a preferred embodiment of the invention the polymerizable liquid
crystalline mixtures comprise at least one inventive chiral compound
of formula I, at least one monofunctional compound of formulae VIa-
VIIm and at least one bifunctional polymerizable compound of
formulae VIIa-VIIe.

25

In another preferred embodiment the polymerizable liquid crystalline
mixtures comprise at least one inventive chiral compound and at
least two monofunctional compounds of formulae VIa-VIIm.

30

Another object of the invention is an anisotropic polymer film with an
oriented chiral liquid crystalline phase obtainable by (co)polymerizing
a liquid crystalline mixture comprising at least one chiral compound of
formula I and at least one polymerizable mesogenic compound

35

preferably selected of formula VIa-VI_m and VIIa-VII_e and/or at least one polymerizable chiral compound of formula I.

5 The preparation of an anisotropic polymer film with twisted structure from a polymerizable mixture is generally described for example in D.J. Broer, et al., Angew. Makromol. Chem. 183, (1990), 45-66. The cholesteric polymerizable mixture is coated onto a substrate, aligned into uniform planar orientation, and polymerized in situ by exposure to heat or actinic radiation, thereby fixing the uniform alignment.
10 Alignment and curing are carried out in the chiral liquid crystalline phase of the polymerizable mixture.

Actinic radiation means irradiation with light, like UV light, IR light or visible light, irradiation with X-rays or gamma rays or irradiation with
15 high energy particles, such as ions or electrons. As a source for actinic radiation for example a single UV lamp or a set of UV lamps can be used. Another possible source for actinic radiation is a laser, like e.g. a UV laser, an IR laser or a visible laser.

20 For example, when photopolymerizing by means of UV light, a photoinitiator can be used that decomposes under UV irradiation to produce free radicals or ions that start the polymerization reaction. It is also possible to use a cationic photoinitiator, when curing reactive mesogens with for example vinyl and epoxide reactive groups, that
25 photocures with cations instead of free radicals. As a photoinitiator for radical polymerization for example the commercially available Irgacure 651, Irgacure 184, Darocure 1173 or Darocure 4205 (all from Ciba Geigy AG) can be used, whereas in case of cationic photopolymerization the commercially available UVI 6974 (Union Carbide) can be used. Preferably the polymerizable liquid crystalline
30 mixtures comprising polymerizable chiral compounds of formula I and/or polymerizable mesogenic compounds of formulae VI and VII additionally comprise 0.01 to 10 %, in particular 0.05 to 8 %, very preferably 0.1 to 5 % by weight of a photoinitiator, especially
35 preferably a UV-photoinitiator.

Preferably polymerization is carried out under an atmosphere of inert gas, preferably under a nitrogen atmosphere.

5 As a substrate for example a glass or quartz sheet as well as a plastic film or sheet can be used. It is also possible to put a second substrate on top of the coated mixture prior to, during and/or after polymerization. The substrates can be removed after polymerization or not. When using two substrates in case of curing by actinic radiation, at least one substrate has to be transmissive for the actinic
10 radiation used for the polymerization. Isotropic or birefringent substrates can be used. In case the substrate is not removed from the polymerized film after polymerization, preferably isotropic substrates are used. Preferably at least one substrate is a plastic substrate such as for example a film of polyester such as
15 polyethyleneterephthalate (PET), of polyvinylalcohol (PVA), polycarbonate (PC) or triacetylcellulose (TAC), especially preferably a PET film or a TAC film. As a birefringent substrate for example an uniaxially stretched plastic film can be used. For example PET films are commercially available from ICI Corp. under the trade name
20 Melinex.

The polymerizable mixture is preferably coated as a thin layer on a substrate or between substrate, and aligned in its chiral mesophase, e.g. the cholesteric or chiral smectic phase, to give a planar
25 orientation, i.e. wherein the axis of the molecular helix extends transversely to the layer. Planar orientation can be achieved for example by shearing the mixture, e.g. by means of a doctor blade. It is also possible to apply an alignment layer, for example a layer of rubbed polyimide or sputtered SiO_x , on top of at least one of the
30 substrates. Alternatively, a second substrate is put on top of the coated material. In this case, the shearing caused by putting together the two substrates is sufficient to give good alignment. It is also possible to apply an electric or magnetic field to the coated mixture.

35 In some cases it is of advantage to apply a second substrate not only to aid alignment of the polymerizable mixture but also to exclude

oxygen that may inhibit the polymerization. Alternatively curing can be carried out under an atmosphere of inert gas. However, curing in air is also possible using suitable photoinitiators and high lamp power. When using a cationic photoinitiator oxygen exclusion most often is not needed, but water should be excluded.

An inventive polymerizable liquid crystalline mixture for the preparation of anisotropic polymer films comprises preferably 0.1 to 35 %, in particular 0.5 to 15 % and very particularly preferably 0.5 to 5 % by weight of one or more polymerizable chiral compounds of formula I. Polymerizable liquid crystalline mixtures are preferred that comprise 1 to 3 chiral compounds of formula I.

The inventive polymerizable liquid crystalline mixtures can additionally comprise one or more other suitable components such as, for example, catalysts, sensitizers, stabilizers, inhibitors, co-reacting monomers, surface-active compounds, lubricating agents, wetting agents, dispersing agents, hydrophobing agents, adhesive agents, flow improvers, defoaming agents, deaerators, diluents, reactive diluents, auxiliaries, colourants, dyes or pigments.

Preferably the inventive polymerizable mixture comprises a stabilizer that is used to prevent undesired spontaneous polymerization for example during storage of the composition. As stabilizers in principle all compounds can be used that are known to the skilled in the art for this purpose. These compounds are commercially available in a broad variety. Typical examples for stabilizers are 4-ethoxyphenol or butylated hydroxytoluene (BHT).

It is also possible, in order to increase crosslinking of the polymers, to add a non mesogenic compound with two or more polymerizable functional groups, preferably in an amount of up to 20% by weight, to the polymerizable mixture alternatively or additionally to multifunctional mesogenic polymerizable compounds. Typical examples for difunctional non mesogenic monomers are alkyldiacrylates or alkyldimethacrylates with alkyl groups of 1 to 20 C

atoms. Typical examples for non mesogenic monomers with more than two polymerizable groups are trimethylpropanetrimethacrylate or pentaerythritoltetraacrylate.

5 Polymerization of inventive compositions comprising compounds with only one polymerizable functional group leads to linear polymers, whereas in the presence of compounds with more than one polymerizable functional group crosslinked polymers are obtained.

10 For the preparation of anisotropic polymer gels, the liquid crystalline mixtures can be polymerized in situ as described above, however, in this case alignment of the polymerizable mixture is not always necessary.

15 Due to the presence of a photoisomerizable group in the compounds of formula I, the chirality of the inventive compounds and liquid crystalline mixtures can be changed by photoirradiation. Photoirradiation can be achieved for example with irradiation by UV
20 light or other high energy sources such as lasers.

The photoisomerizable compounds of formula I are particularly suitable for the preparation of cholesteric films or layers with planar alignment. Such layers or films show selective reflection of visible
25 light that is circularly polarized, caused by interaction of incident light with the helically twisted structure of the cholesteric material. The central wavelength of reflection λ depends on the pitch p and average refractive index n of the cholesteric material according to equation (2)

30
$$\lambda = n \cdot p \quad (2)$$

The bandwidth $\Delta\lambda$ of the reflected wavelength band depends on the pitch and the birefringence Δn of the cholesteric material according to
equation (3)

35
$$\Delta\lambda = \Delta n \cdot p \quad (3)$$

The inventive compounds and mixtures can for example be used to prepare reflective cholesteric films wherein the optical properties, like the reflection wavelength λ and the reflection bandwidth $\Delta\lambda$, can be varied easily. For example, cholesteric reflective films with a horizontal pattern comprising regions of different reflection wavelength λ , or broadband reflective films with a broad bandwidth $\Delta\lambda$ of the reflected wavelength band can be prepared. The preparation of such films is described for example in WO 00/34808 and in P. van de Witte et al., J. Mater. Chem. 9 (1999), 2087-2094, the entire disclosure of which is incorporated into this application by way of reference. The preparation of patterned cholesteric films and of broadband reflective films is also exemplarily described below.

A cholesteric film with variable wavelength can for example be prepared as follows:

A thin layer of a cholesteric polymerizable mixture comprising an inventive chiral photoisomerizable compound of formula I is coated onto a substrate and aligned into planar orientation as described above. The coated and aligned layer shows selective reflection of a wavelength λ that is depending on the helical pitch p according to above equation (2). If the coated layer is exposed to photoradiation of a suitable wavelength, the photoisomerizable group(s) in the compound of formula I is isomerized. For example, in case the compound of formula I comprises a photoisomerizable group PI of formula IIIa wherein D^1 and D are CH (stilbene group), the stilbene group will undergo E-Z-isomerization if the wavelength of radiation is selected accordingly between 300 and 400 nm. This causes a shift of the HTP of the photoisomerizable compound and, according to above equation (1), a change in the helical pitch p and thus in the reflection wavelength λ of the layer. The degree of isomerization and the shift of λ can be controlled by varying e.g. the irradiation time and/or the radiation dose. The structure of the layer is then fixed by in-situ polymerization.

If only a part of the layer is exposed to photoradiation, the helical pitch and reflection wavelength will change only in the exposed parts, but remain unchanged in the non-exposed parts. This can be achieved for example by photoradiation through a photomask that is applied on top of the coated layer. Afterwards, the cholesteric structure is fixed in those parts where the pitch has changed by polymerization, for example by in-situ photopolymerization through the photomask. If the above steps of photoisomerization and (photo)polymerization are then repeated for the previously non-exposed parts of the coated layer under different conditions, e.g. different irradiation time and/or radiation dose, a patterned cholesteric film is obtained with different regions showing different reflection wavelengths. Such patterned films are suitable for example for use as colour filter in optical or electrooptical devices like liquid crystal displays or projectors. They can also be used for security markings, e.g. to identify or prevent falsification of credit cards, passports, bank notes or other documents of value.

A broadband reflective cholesteric film can for example be prepared as follows:

A layer of a cholesteric mixture with planar orientation comprising a photoisomerizable compound of formula I additionally comprises a dye having an absorption maximum at the wavelength where the isomerizable compound shows photoisomerization. For example, the mixture may comprise an isomerizable compound showing isomerization at a wavelength in the UV range together with a UV dye. If the mixture is exposed to UV radiation as described above, the dye will create a gradient in UV light intensity throughout the thickness of the layer. As a consequence, the isomerization is faster at the top of the layer than at the bottom and a pitch gradient is created, leading to a broadening of the reflected wavelength band. The pitch gradient and reflection bandwidth can be controlled for example by varying the film thickness, irradiation time, radiation dose and/or the concentration of the UV dye and the photoisomerizable compound. If the cholesteric mixture comprises one or more

polymerizable components, the structure of the film can be fixed by in-situ polymerization.

5 From the foregoing description, one skilled in the art can easily ascertain the essential characteristics of this invention, and without departing from the spirit and scope thereof, can make various changes and modifications of the invention to adapt it to various usages and conditions.

10 Without further elaboration, it is believed that one skilled in the art can, using the preceding description, utilize the present invention to its fullest extent. The following examples are, therefore, to be construed as merely illustrative and not limitative of the remainder of the disclosure in any way whatsoever.

15 In the foregoing and in the following examples, unless otherwise indicated, all temperatures are set forth uncorrected in degrees Celsius and all parts and percentages are by weight.

20 The values of the helical twisting power HTP of a chiral compound in a liquid crystalline host are given according to the equation $HTP = (p \cdot c)^{-1}$ in μm^{-1} , wherein p is the pitch of the molecular helix, given in μm , and c is the concentration by weight of the chiral compound in the host given in relative values (thus, e.g. a concentration of 1 % by weight is corresponding to a value of c of 0.01).

25

Unless indicated otherwise, the HTP values of the examples were determined in the commercially available liquid crystal host mixture MLC-6260 (Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany) at a concentration of 1 % and a temperature of 20 °C.

30

The following abbreviations are used to illustrate the liquid crystalline phase behaviour of the compounds: C = crystalline; N = nematic; S = smectic; N*, Ch = chiral nematic or cholesteric; I = isotropic. The numbers between these symbols indicate the phase transition

35 temperatures in degree Celsius. Furthermore, mp. is the melting point,

Δn is the birefringence at 589 nm and 20 °C and $\Delta\epsilon$ is the dielectric anisotropy at 20 °C. C* in a chemical formula denotes a chiral C atom. DCM is dichloromethane.

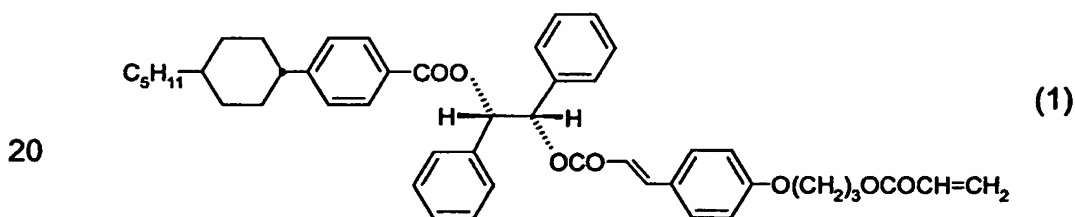
5 "Conventional workup" means: water is added if necessary, the mixture is extracted with methylene chloride, diethyl ether or toluene, the phases are separated, the organic phase is dried and concentrated by evaporation, and the product is purified by crystallization and/or chromatography.

10

Examples

Example 1

15 Compound (1) was prepared as described below



4-(4-Pentyl-cyclohexyl)-benzoic acid 2-hydroxy-1,2-diphenyl-ethyl ester (1a)

25

To a jacketed flask (1L) 4-(4-pentyl-cyclohexyl)-benzoic acid (6.31g, 23mmol), S,S-1,2-diphenyl-ethane-1,2-diol (5.00g, 23mmol), 4-(dimethylamino)-pyridine (0.24g, 2mmol) and N,N'-dicyclohexylcarbodiimide (5.16g, 25mmol) were added, followed by the addition of dichloromethane (50mL), and the mixture stirred at ambient temperature overnight. Solid material was then filtered, the organic layer washed with brine (2x25mL), dried (MgSO₄) and the solvent removed under vacuum. Column chromatography (on silica, CH₂Cl₂ as eluent) gave 4-(4-Pentyl-cyclohexyl)-benzoic acid 2-hydroxy-1,2-diphenyl-ethyl ester (1a) (6.20g, 13mmol, 57%), structure confirmed by ¹H, ¹³C, GC-MS and IR.

30

35

4-(4-Pentyl-cyclohexyl)-benzoic acid 2-[(E)-3-[4-(6-acryloyloxy-propyloxy)-phenyl]-allanoyloxy]-1,2-diphenyl-ethyl ester (1)

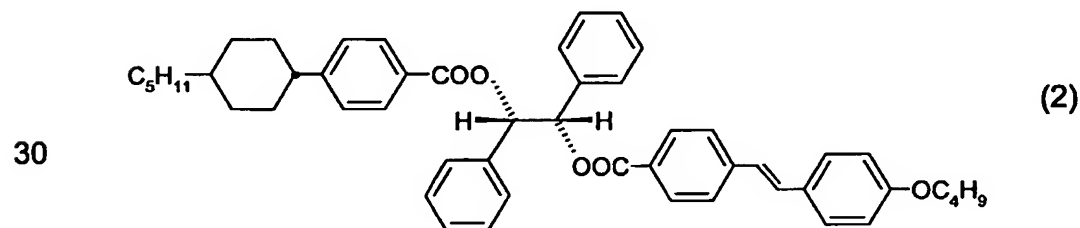
5 To a round bottomed flask ester (1a) (3.00g, 6mmol), (E)-3-[4-(6-(3-Chloro-propanoyloxy)-propyloxy)-phenyl]-acrylic acid (2.13g, 8mmol), 4-(dimethylamino)-pyridine (0.12g, 1mmol) and N,N'-dicyclohexylcarbodiimide (1.44g, 7mmol) were added, followed by
10 the addition of dichloromethane (100mL), and the mixture stirred at ambient temperature for 42h. Triethylamine (1.25mL, 9mmol) was then added and the mixture stirred at 35°C overnight after which time the mixture was filtered, washed with brine (3x30mL), dried (MgSO₄) and the solvent removed under vacuum. Column chromatography
15 (on silica, ethyl acetate and 40-60 petrol as eluent 1:9) gave 4-(4-Pentyl-cyclohexyl)-benzoic acid 2-[(E)-3-[4-(6-acryloyloxy-propyloxy)-phenyl]-allanoyloxy]-1,2-diphenyl-ethyl ester (1) (2.0g, 3mmol, 43%), structure confirmed by ¹H, ¹³C, GC-MS and IR.

m.p. = 72 °C, HTP = 43

20

Example 2-9

25 Compound (2) was prepared as described below



35 4-(4-Pentyl-cyclohexyl)-benzoic acid 2-(4-formyl-benzoic acid)-1,2-diphenyl-ethyl ester (2a)

To a round bottomed flask ester (1a) of example 1 (5.00g, 11mmol), 4-formyl-benzoic acid (1.65g, 11mmol), 4-(dimethylamino)-pyridine (0.12g, 1mmol) and N,N'-dicyclohexylcarbodiimide (2.27g, 11mmol) were added, followed by the addition of dichloromethane (50mL), and the mixture stirred overnight at 35°C. The reaction mixture was then filtered, washed with water (2x25mL), dried (MgSO₄) and the solvent removed under vacuum. Column chromatography (on silica, CH₂Cl₂ as eluent) gave 4-(4-Pentyl-cyclohexyl)-benzoic acid 2-(4-formyl-benzoic acid)-1,2-diphenyl-ethyl ester (2a) (2.0g, 3mmol, 43%), structure confirmed by ¹H, ¹³C, GC-MS and IR.

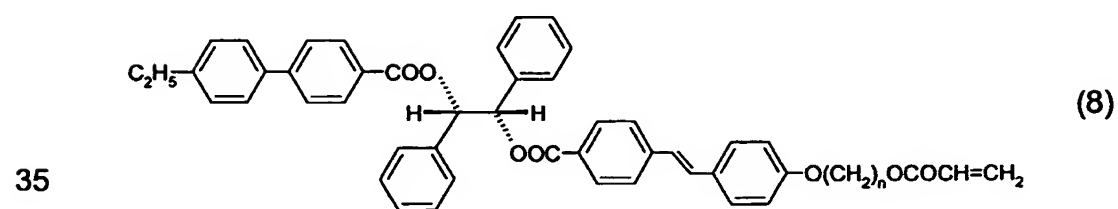
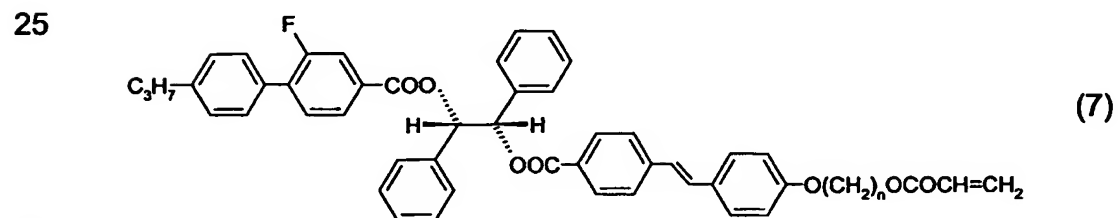
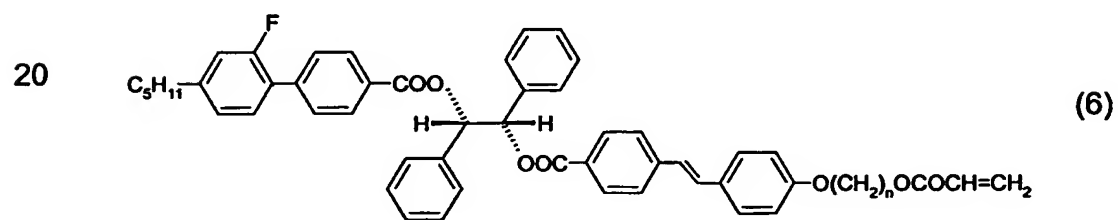
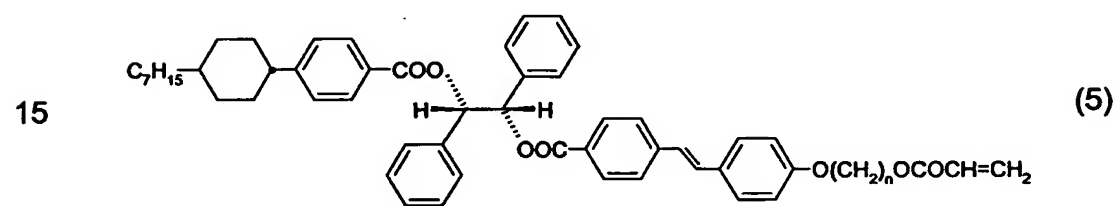
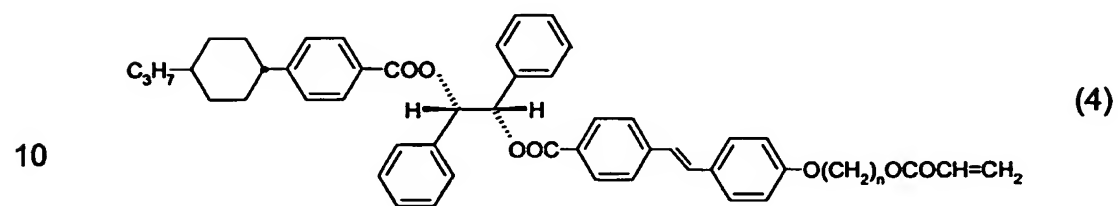
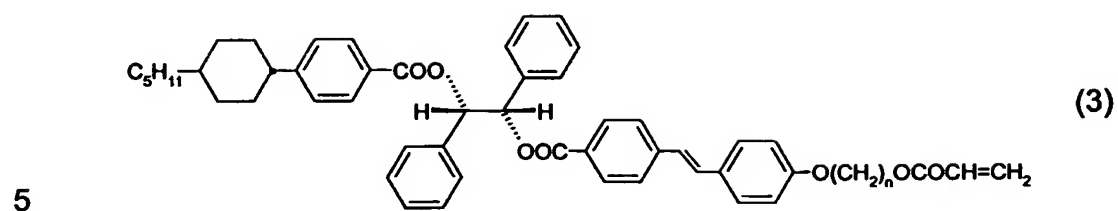
4-(4-Pentyl-cyclohexyl)-benzoic acid 2-(4-[(E)-2-(4-Butoxy-phenyl)-vinyl]-benzoic acid)-1,2-diphenyl-ethyl ester (2)

(4-n-Butoxybenzyl)triphenylphosphonium bromide (3.54g, 7mmol) was added to a jacketed vessel (1L), dissolved in tetrahydrofuran (200mL) and cooled to 5°C. Potassium t-butoxide (0.90g, 8mmol) was then added and the mixture stirred for 30min., after which ester (2a) (4.00g, 7mmol) was added and stirred for a further 30min., before slowly increasing the temperature to 25°C and stirring overnight. The reaction mixture was then washed with brine (2x50mL), the organic layer dried (MgSO₄) and the solvent removed under vacuum. After column chromatography (on silica, 1st with CH₂Cl₂ as eluent, 2nd with ethyl acetate and petrol (40-60) as eluent 1:9) 4-(4-Pentyl-cyclohexyl)-benzoic acid 2-(4-[(E)-2-(4-Butoxy-phenyl)-vinyl]-benzoic acid)-1,2-diphenyl-ethyl ester (2) was isolated as both the *cis*- (0.80g, 1mmol, 15%) and *trans*- (1.00g, 1mmol, 19%) isomers. The structures were confirmed by ¹H, ¹³C, GC-MS and IR.

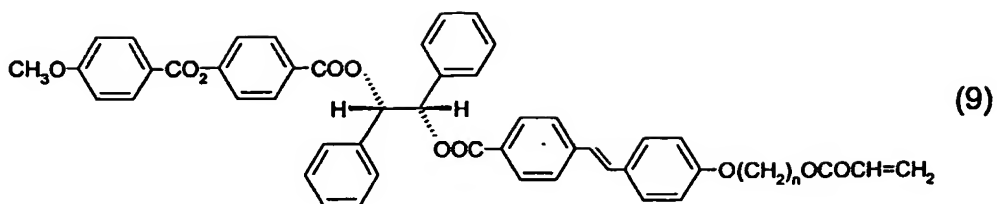
cis-isomer: m.p. = 96 °C, HTP = 13

trans-isomer: m.p. = 130 °C, HTP = 33

The following compounds, wherein n is 3 or 6, are prepared analogously



5

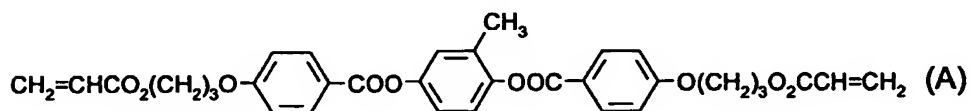


Example 10 - Preparation of a polymer film

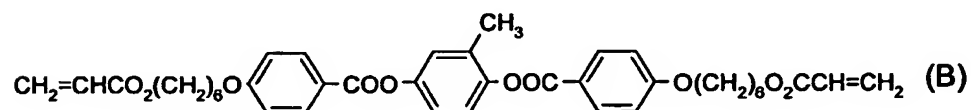
10 The polymerizable mixture M was formulated, comprising

| | |
|-----------------|---------|
| Compound A | 51.70 % |
| Compound B | 12.95 % |
| Compound C | 23.70 % |
| 15 Compound D | 9.30 % |
| FX 13 | 1.16 % |
| TPO | 1.16 % |
| 4-Methoxyphenol | 0.03 % |

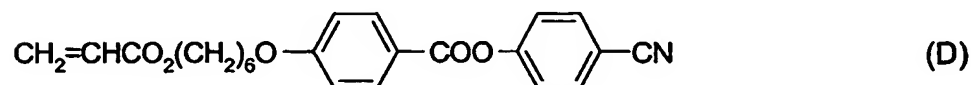
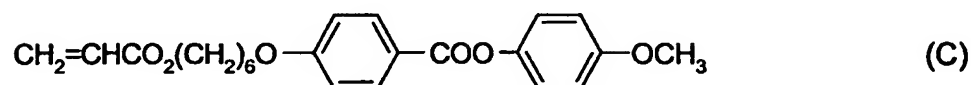
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Compounds (A), (B), (C) and (D) can be prepared according or in analogy to the methods described in D.J.Broer et al., Makromol. Chem. **190**, 3201-3215 (1989). FX13[®] is a polymerizable nonionic

surfactant with a perfluoroalkyl group which is commercially available from 3M Corp. TPO (2,4,6-trimethylbenzoyl-diphenylphosphine oxide, Trademark Lucirin® TPO) is a commercially available photoinitiator (from BASF AG).

5

Mixture M is dissolved in xylene to give solution S1 with a concentration of 50 % of total solids. 0.0395 g of compound (1) of example 1 are added to 0.9566g of solution S1 to give solution S2 with the concentration of (1) being 7.94 % of total solids.

10

Thin films of the solution S2 are coated onto a substrate and isomerized in air for different periods of time, using 3.8 mW/cm^2 radiation from a medium pressure Hg lamp. Immediately after isomerization each film was polymerized using approx. 15 mW/cm^2 radiation from the same medium Hg pressure lamp in an N_2 atmosphere. In this way, the following polymer films are obtained

15

| Sample | P1 | P2 | P3 | P4 | P5 |
|------------------------|----|-----|----|----|----|
| Isomerization time (s) | 0 | 0.5 | 1 | 2 | 3 |

20

The reflection spectrum of the polymer films P1-P5 are depicted in Figure 1. It can be seen that the central wavelength of reflection is shifted towards higher values with increasing isomerization time. Figure 2 depicts the central wavelength of reflection of films P1-P5 versus isomerization time.

25

The preceding examples can be repeated with similar success by substituting the generically or specifically described reactants and/or operating conditions of this invention for those used in the preceding examples.

30

From the foregoing description, one skilled in the art can easily ascertain the essential characteristics of this invention, and without departing from the spirit and scope thereof, can make various

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changes and modifications of the invention to adapt it to various conditions and usages.

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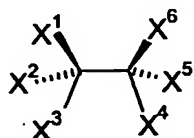
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Patent Claims

1. Photoisomerizable chiral compounds of formula I

5



I

10

wherein

15

X^1 , X^2 , X^3 , X^4 , X^5 and X^6 independently of each other denote H, straight chain or branched alkyl with 1 to 20 C atoms wherein one or more CH_2 groups can also be replaced by -O-, -S-, -CO-, -NR⁰-, -CH=CH-, or -C≡C- in such a manner that O and/or S atoms are not linked directly to one another and wherein one or more H-atoms can also be replaced by F or Cl, or denote an aliphatic or aromatic carbocyclic or heterocyclic group with 3 to 40 C atoms that may also comprise fused and/or substituted rings, or two of X^1 , X^2 , X^3 , X^4 , X^5 and X^6 may also together form an optionally substituted cyclic group with up to 40 C atoms,

20

25

with the provisos that $X^1 \neq X^2 \neq X^3$ and $X^4 \neq X^5 \neq X^6$, and that the compound comprises at least one photoisomerizable group and at least one mesogenic group, or at least one group that is photoisomerizable and mesogenic.

2. Chiral photoisomerizable compounds according to claim 1, wherein

30

X^1 , X^2 , X^3 , X^4 , X^5 and X^6 are independently of each other

35

- a) H or straight chain or branched alkyl with 1 to 20 C atoms wherein one or more CH_2 groups can also be replaced by -O-, -S-, -CO-, -NR⁰-, -CH=CH-, -C≡C- in such a manner that O and/or S atoms are not linked directly to one

another and wherein one or more H-atoms can also be replaced with F or Cl,

b) $-B-(Sp)_n-G$, or

c) $-B-(Sp)_n-(M^1-Z^1)_l-(PI)_k-(Z^2-M^2)_l-R$,

wherein two of X^1, X^2, X^3, X^4, X^5 and X^6 may also form together a cyclic group with up to 40 C atoms that is optionally substituted with one or more groups R, and

$X^1 \neq X^2 \neq X^3$ and $X^4 \neq X^5 \neq X^6$,

R^0 is H or alkyl with 1 to 4 C atoms,

G is an aliphatic or aromatic carbocyclic or heterocyclic group with 3 to 40 C atoms that may also comprise fused rings and may also be substituted with one or more groups R,

R is H, halogen, NO_2 , CN, SCN, SF_5 , straight chain, branched or cyclic alkyl with 1 to 25 C atoms wherein one or more CH_2 groups can also be replaced by $-O-$, $-S-$, $-CO-$, $-NR^0-$, $-CH=CH-$, $-C\equiv C-$ in such a manner that O and/or S atoms are not linked directly to one another, and wherein one or more H-atoms can also be replaced by F or Cl, or $P-(Sp)_n-$,

P is a polymerizable group,

Sp is a spacer group with 1 to 20 C atoms,

n is 0 or 1,

- B is -O-, -S-, -NR⁰-, -O-CO-, -NR⁰-CO-, -O-COO-, -OCH₂-, -S-CO-, -S-COO- or a single bond,
- 5 PI is a photoisomerizable group that may in addition be mesogenic,
- M¹ and M² are independently of each other a mesogenic group,
- 10 i, k and l are independently of each other 0 or 1,
- Z¹ and Z² are independently of each other -O-, -S-, -CO-, -COO-, -OCO-, -CO-NR⁰-, -NR⁰-CO-, -CH₂CH₂-, -CF₂CF₂-, -CH₂CF₂-, -OCH₂-, -CH₂O-, -SCH₂-, -CH₂S-, -CF₂O-, -OCF₂-, -CH=CH-, -CF=CF-, -CH=CF-, -(CH₂)₄-, -CH=CH-COO-, -OCO-CH=CH-, -C≡C- or a single bond, and
- 15 at least one of X¹, X², X³, X⁴, X⁵ and X⁶ is -B-Sp-(M¹-Z¹)_i-(PI)_k-(Z²-M²)_r-G, with k in at least one of those groups being 1.
- 20 3. Chiral photoisomerizable compounds according to at least one of claims 1 and 2, wherein M¹ and M² are of formula II
- 25
$$-(A^1-Z)_m-A^2- \quad II$$
- wherein
- 30 A¹ and A² are independently of each other selected from
- a) 1,4-phenylene in which, in addition, one or more CH groups may be replaced by N,
- 35 b) 1,4-cyclohexylene in which, in addition, one or two non-adjacent CH₂ groups may be replaced by O and/or S,

5 c) 1,3-dioxolane-4,5-diyl, 1,4-cyclohexenylene,
1,4-bicyclo-(2,2,2)-octylene, piperidine-1,4-diyl,
naphthalene-2,6-diyl, decahydro-naphthalene-
2,6-diyl, 1,2,3,4-tetrahydronaphthalene-2,6-diyl
or indane-2,5-diyl,

10 it being possible for all these groups to be
unsubstituted or mono- or polysubstituted with L,

L is halogen, CN, SCN, NO₂, SF₅ or an alkyl, alkoxy,
alkylcarbonyl or alkoxy carbonyl group with 1 to 7 C
atoms, wherein one or more H atoms may be
substituted with F or Cl,

15 Z has in each case independently one of the
meanings of formula I, and

20 m is 0, 1, 2 or 3.

4. Chiral photoisomerizable compounds according to at least one
of claims 1 to 3, wherein one to four of X¹ to X⁶ denote H,
cyclohexyl, phenyl that is optionally substituted with 1 to 4
groups L as defined in formula II, or -(COO)_o-S with o being 0 or
25 1 and S being alkyl with 1 to 4 C atoms.

5. Chiral photoisomerizable compounds according to at least one
of claims 1 to 4, wherein PI is of formula III

30 -C¹-D¹=D²-C²- III

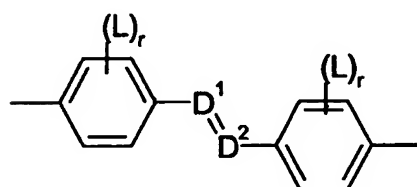
wherein

35 D¹ and D² are independently of each other CH or N or a
saturated C atom in a carbocyclic or heterocyclic 5-
or 6-membered ring, and

5 C^1 and C^2 are independently of each other a bivalent aliphatic or aromatic carbocyclic or heterocyclic group with 3 to 40 C atoms that may also comprise fused rings, C^1 and D^1 or C^2 and D^2 may also together form a cyclic group, and C^1 may also denote a single bond.

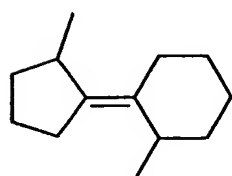
6. Chiral photoisomerizable compounds according to claim 5, wherein PI is selected of the following formulae

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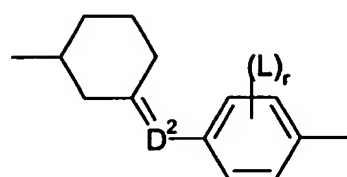
IIIa

15



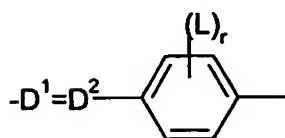
IIIb

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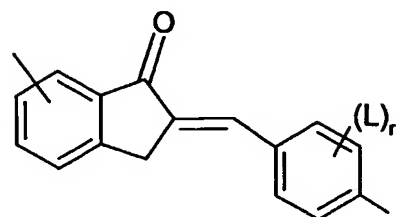
IIIc

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IIId

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



IIle

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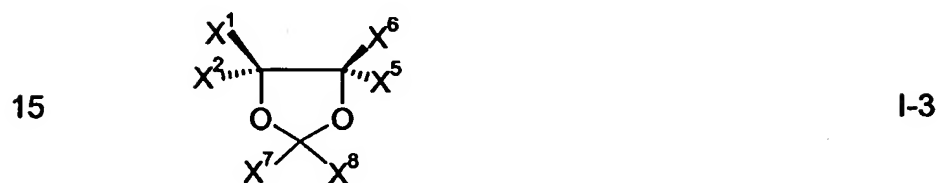
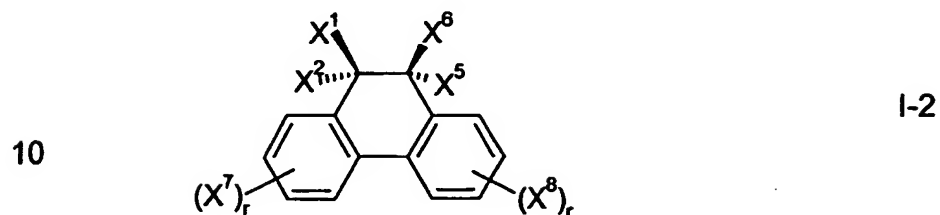
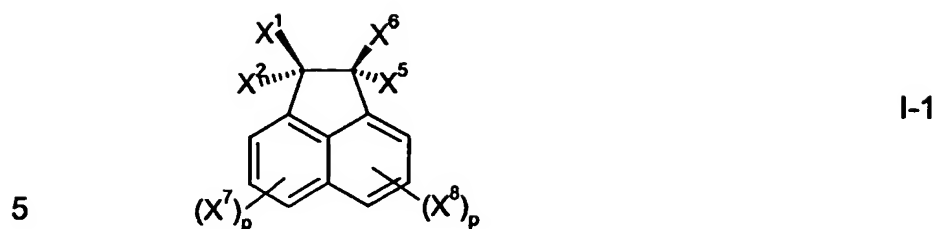
wherein D^1 and D^2 have the meaning of formula III, L has the meaning of formula II, and r is 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4.

- 5 7. Chiral photoisomerizable compounds according to at least one of claims 1 to 6, wherein at least one of R^1 and R^2 denotes P-Sp-, wherein

10 P is $CH_2=CW^1-COO-$, W^2HC  $CH-$, W^2  $(CH_2)_k-O-$, $CH_2=CW^2-O-$, $CH_3-CH=CH-O-$, $HO-CW^2W^3-$, $HS-CW^2W^3-$, HW^2N- , $HO-CW^2W^3-NH-$, $CH_2=CW^1-CO-NH-$, $CH_2=CH-(COO)_{k1}-Phe-(O)_{k2}-$, $Phe-CH=CH-$, $HOOC-$, $OCN-$ and $W^4W^5W^6Si-$, with W^1 being H, Cl, CN, phenyl or alkyl with 1 to 5 C-atoms, in particular H, Cl or CH_3 , W^2 and W^3 being independently of each other H or alkyl with 1 to 5 C-atoms, in particular methyl, ethyl or n-propyl, W^4 , W^5 and W^6 being independently of each other Cl, oxaalkyl or oxacarbonylalkyl with 1 to 5 C-atoms, Phe being 1,4-phenylene and k_1 and k_2 being independently of each other 0 or 1, and

20 Sp is straight chain or branched alkylene having 1 to 20 C atoms, in particular 1 to 12 C atoms, in which, in addition, one or more non-adjacent CH_2 groups may be replaced by $-O-$, $-S-$, $-NR^0-$, $-CO-$, $-O-CO-$, $-S-CO-$, $-O-COO-$, $-CO-S-$, $-CO-O-$, $-CH(halogen)-$, $-CH(CN)-$, $-CH(OH)-$, $-(CF_2)_x-$, $-(CD_2)_x-$, $-CH=CH-$, $-CF=CF-$, $-CH=CF-$ or $-C\equiv C-$, with x being an integer from 1 to 12, and in which one or more H atoms may be replaced by halogen, CN or OH.

- 30 8. Chiral photoisomerizable compounds according to at least one of claims 1 to 7, selected of the following formulae



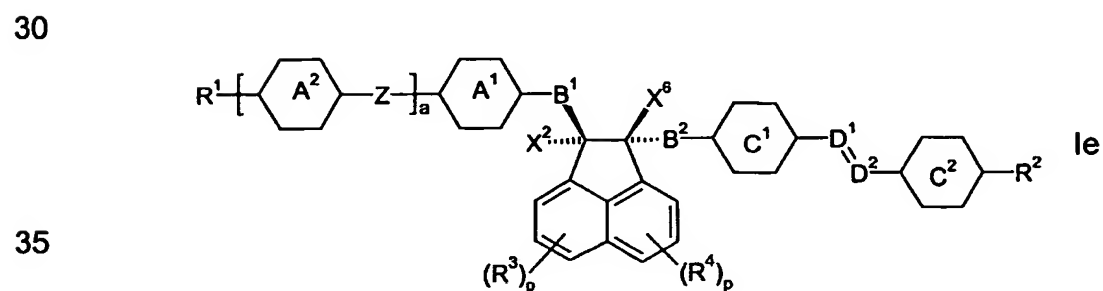
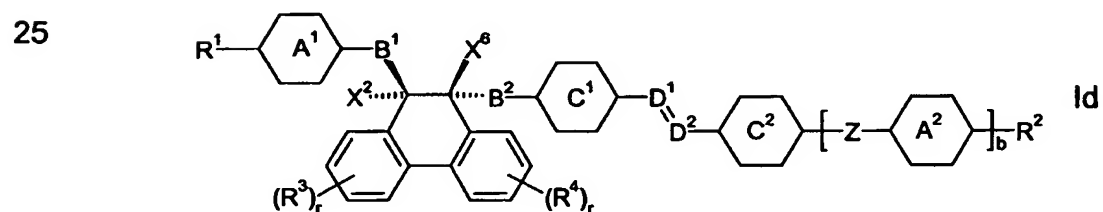
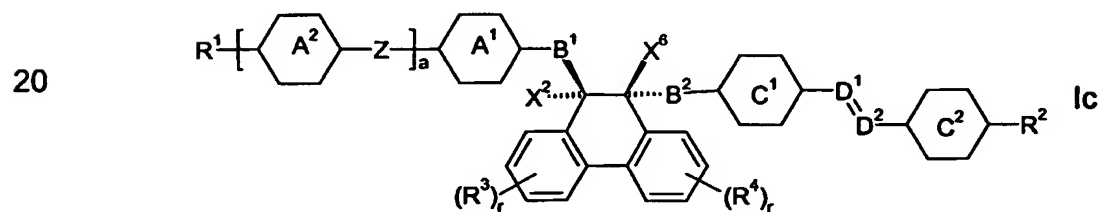
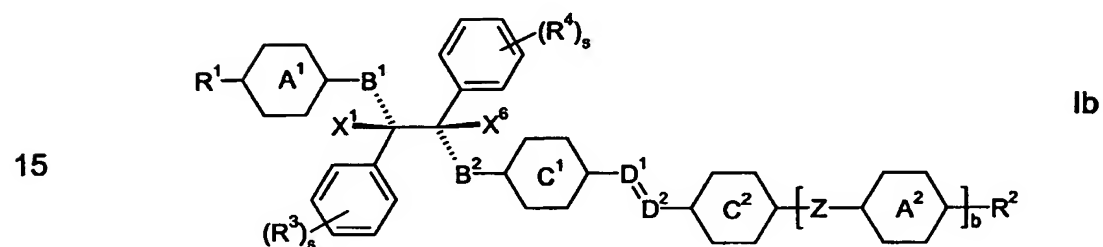
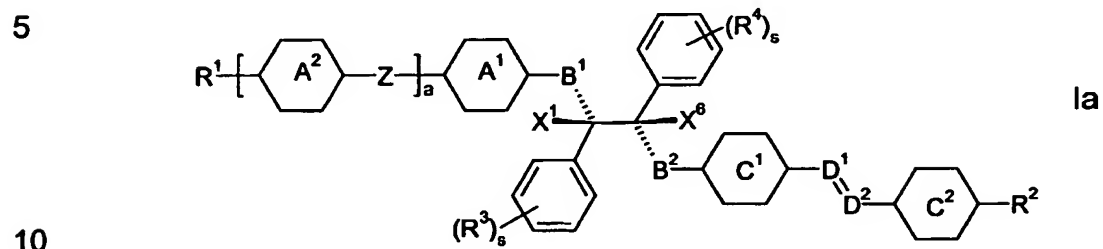
wherein

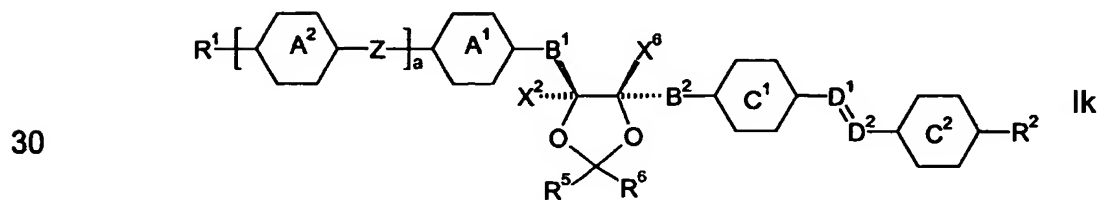
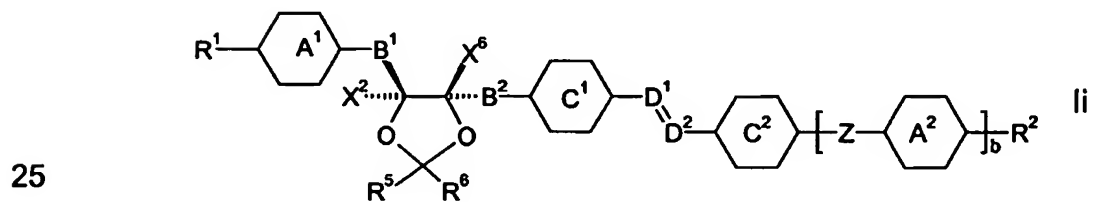
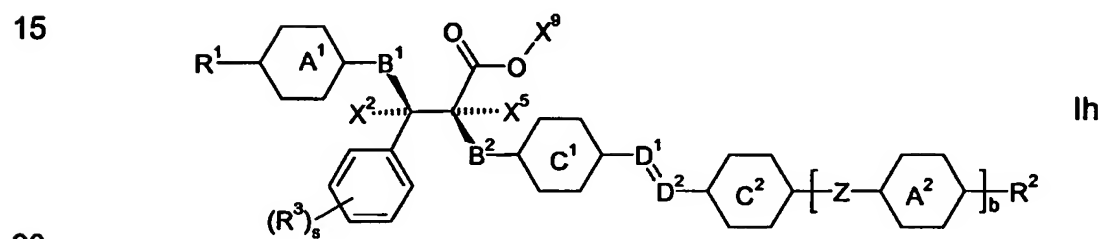
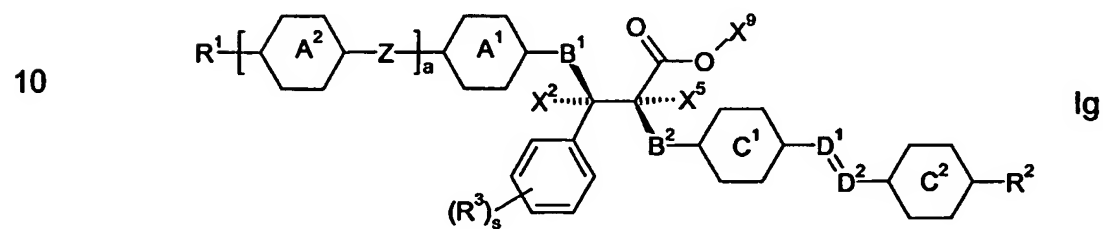
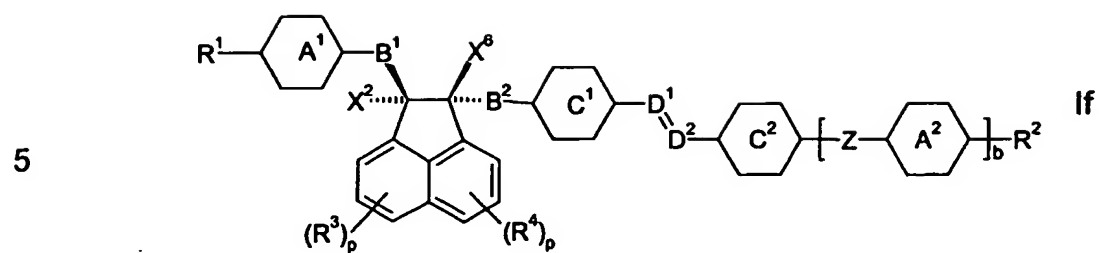
20 X^7 and X^8 are independently of each other halogen, NO_2 , CN, SCN , SF_5 , straight chain or branched alkyl with 1 to 25 C atoms wherein one or more CH_2 groups can also be replaced by $-\text{O}-$, $-\text{S}-$, $-\text{CO}-$, $-\text{NR}^0-$, $-\text{CH}=\text{CH}-$, $-\text{C}\equiv\text{C}-$ in such a manner that O and/or S atoms are not linked directly to one another, and wherein one or more H-atoms can also be replaced by F or Cl, or denote an optionally substituted cycloalkyl, phenyl, benzyl or fused carbocyclic or heterocyclic aliphatic or aromatic group with up to 25 C atoms that is optionally substituted with one or more groups R as defined in formula I, or $\text{P}-(\text{Sp})_n$,

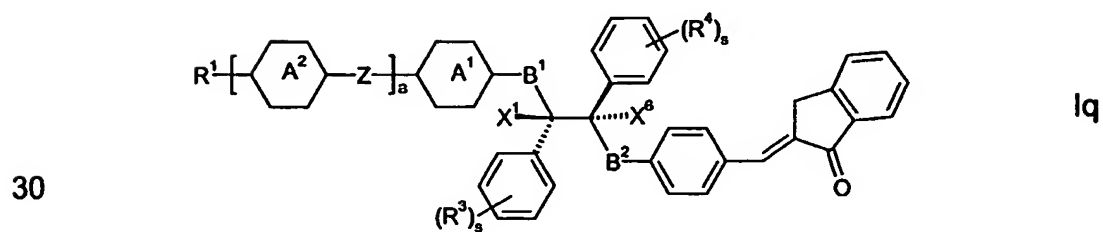
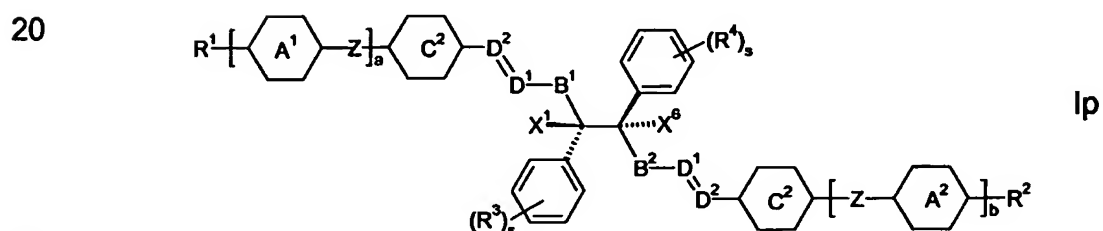
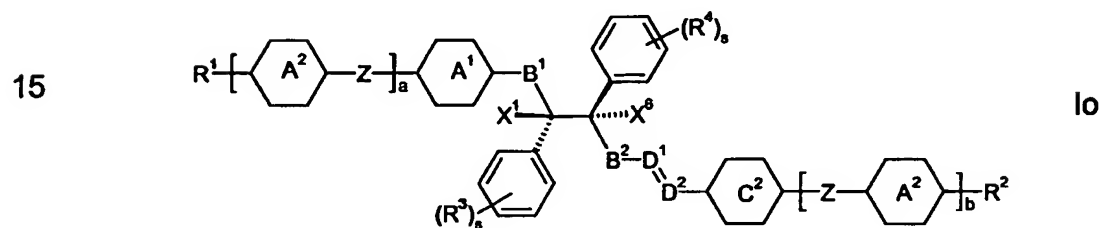
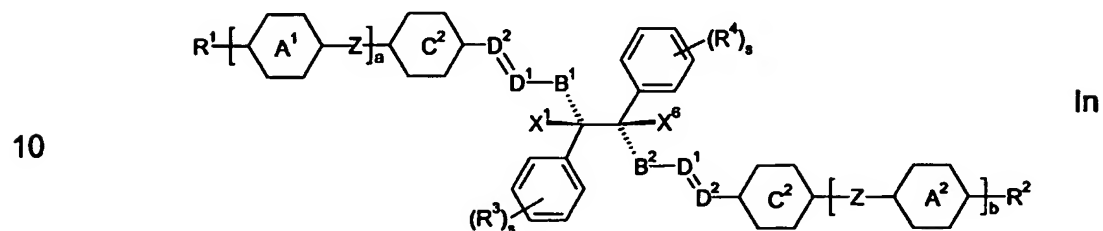
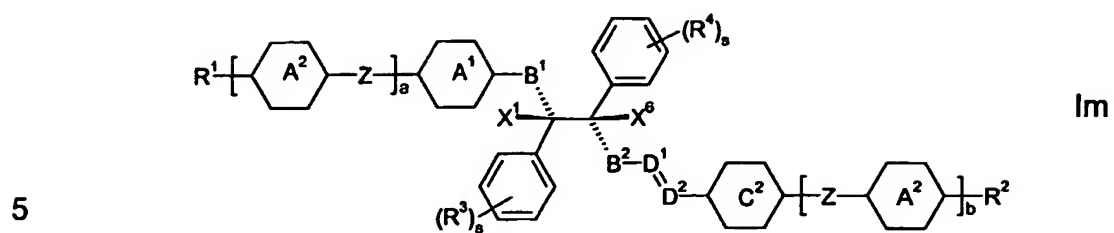
30 p is in each case independently 0, 1, 2 or 3, and

35 r is in each case independently 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4.

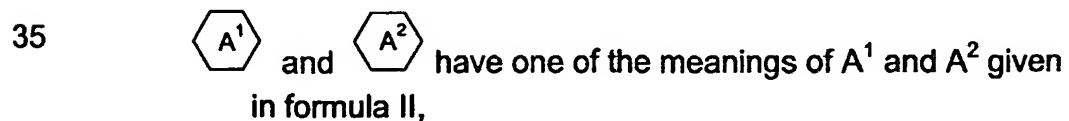
9. Chiral photoisomerizable compounds according to at least one of claims 1 to 7, selected of the following formulae









wherein



Z has one of the meanings of formula II,

5  and  have one of the meanings of C¹ and C² given in formula III,

D¹ and D² have one of the meanings of formula II,

10 X¹, X² and X⁶ have independently of each other one of the meanings of formula I,

B¹ and B² have independently of each other one of the meanings of B given in claim 2,

15 R¹, R², R³, R⁴, R⁵ and R⁶ have independently of each other one of the meanings of R given in claim 2,

20 X⁹ is straight chain or branched alkyl with 1 to 25 C atoms wherein one or more CH₂ groups can also be replaced by -O-, -S-, -CO-, -NR⁰-, -CH=CH-, -C≡C- in such a manner that O and/or S atoms are not linked directly to one another, and wherein one or more H-atoms can also be replaced by F or Cl, or denotes a cycloalkyl, phenyl, benzyl or fused
25 carbocyclic or heterocyclic aliphatic or aromatic group with up to 25 C atoms that is optionally substituted with one or more groups R or L as defined in formula I, or P-(Sp)_n,

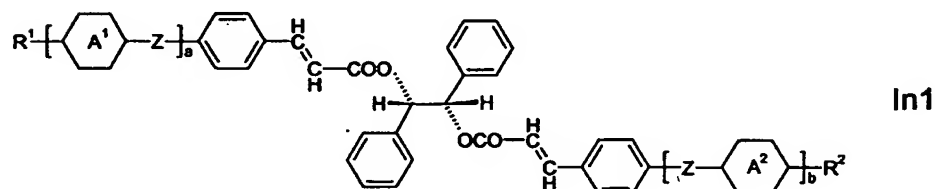
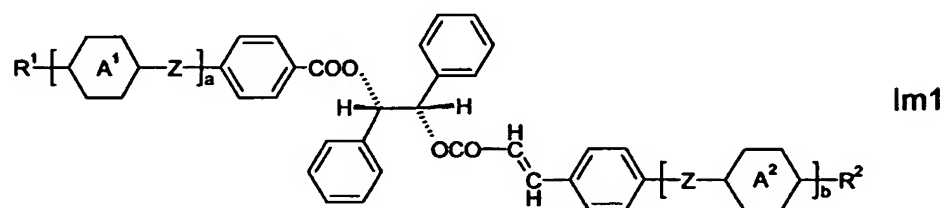
a is 0, 1, 2 or 3,

30 b is 0, 1 or 2

p and r have one of the meanings given in claim 8, and

35 s is 0, 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5,

10. Chiral photoisomerizable compounds according to claim 9,
wherein B¹ is COO and B² is OCO.
11. Chiral photoisomerizable compounds according to claim 10,
selected of the following formulae



wherein R¹, R², Z, A¹, A², a and b have the meanings given in
claim 9.

12. Liquid crystalline mixture comprising at least one chiral
photoisomerizable compound according to at least one of
claims 1 to 11.
13. Liquid crystalline mixture according to claim 12 comprising at
least one polymerizable compound, which can be a chiral
compound of formula I or an additional polymerizable
compound.
14. Linear or crosslinked anisotropic polymer obtainable by
polymerizing a mixture according to claim 13.
15. Use of chiral photoisomerizable compounds, mixtures and
polymers according to claims 1 to 14 in optical and
electrooptical devices like liquid crystal displays or projection

systems, optical elements like polarizers, retardation films, compensators, colour filters or holographic elements, in liquid crystal pigments and films or coloured coatings for decorative or security applications, cosmetic or pharmaceutical compositions, in nonlinear optics and optical information storage.

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16. Liquid crystal display comprising a compound according to claims 1 to 11, a mixture according to claim 12 or 13 or a polymer according to claim 14.

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17. Polymer film obtainable by coating a polymerizable mixture according to claim 13 comprising a chiral photoisomerizable compound of formula I onto a substrate, aligning the mixture into planar orientation, and polymerizing the mixture, wherein at least a part of the mixture before or during polymerization is exposed to actinic radiation of a wavelength where the chiral photoisomerizable compound shows photoisomerization, thereby changing its chirality.

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18. Colour filter or broadband reflective polarizer comprising a polymer film according to claim 17.

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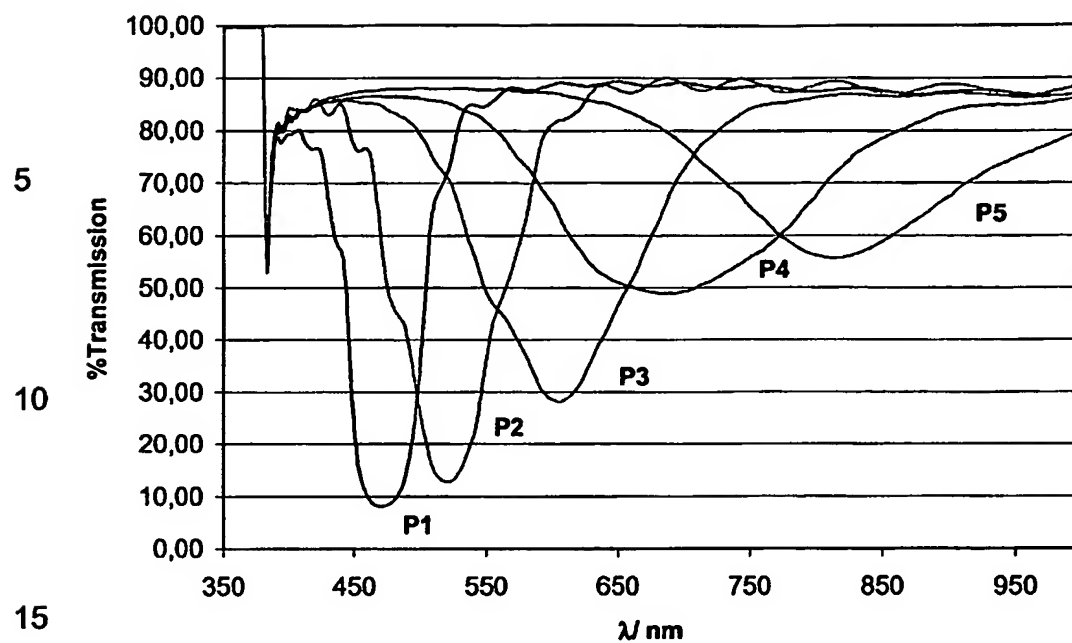


Figure 1

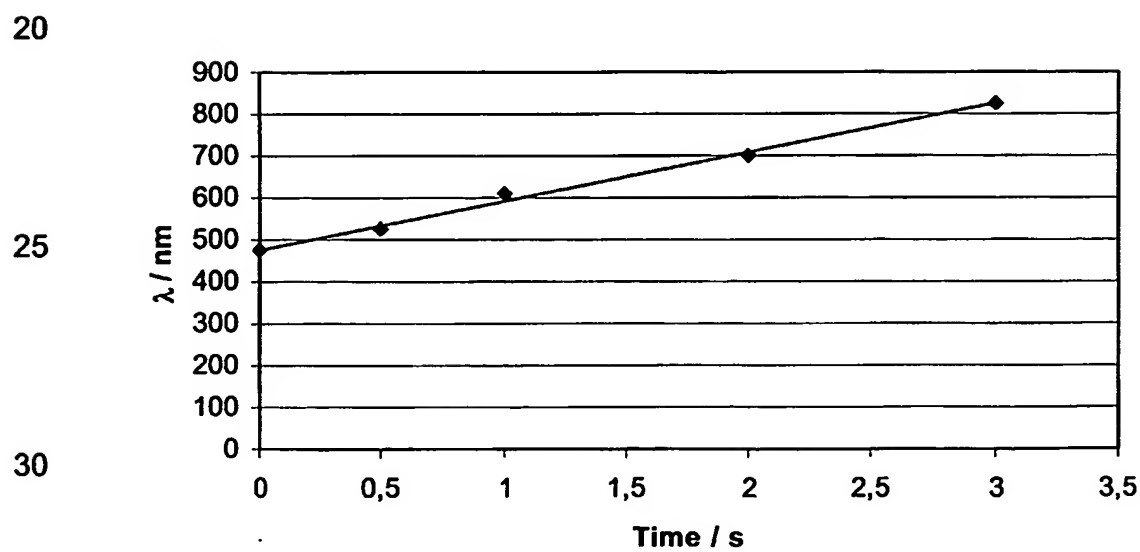


Figure 2

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No.

PCT/EP 01/10944

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 7 C09K19/58 C09K19/20 C07C69/76

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 C09K C07C

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the International search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

CHEM ABS Data, EPO-Internal

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

| Category * | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages | Relevant to claim No. |
|------------|---|-----------------------|
| A | K. YOKOTA ET AL: "chirality induction in cyclopolymerization XI. Bulkiness effect of 1,2-diol templates on cyclopolymerizations of bis(4-vinylbenzoate)s with styrene" POLYMER JOURNAL, vol. 31, no. 11-2, 1999, pages 1037-1040, XP001053658 scheme 1, compound 1e | 1-4,9,10 |
| A | S.M. KELLY ET AL: "Four-unit linking groups V. optically active dopants" LIQUID CRYSTALS, vol. 11, no. 5, 1992, pages 761-771, XP002192313 table 3 | 1-4,9,10 |
| | -/- | |

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

A document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

E earlier document but published on or after the international filing date

L document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

O document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

P document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

T later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

X document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

Y document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

8 document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

7 March 2002

Date of mailing of the international search report

27/03/2002

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Puetz, C

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/EP 01/10944

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

| Category * | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages | Relevant to claim No. |
|------------|---|-----------------------|
| A | GB 2 328 207 A (MERCK PATENT GMBH) 17 February 1999 (1999-02-17) claims; examples 2,3 ---- | 1-4,7,9, 10,12-18 |
| A | WITTE VAN DE P ET AL: "MODIFICATION OF THE PITCH OF CHIRAL NEMATIC LIQUID CRYSTALS BY MEANS OF PHOTOISOMERIZATION OF CHIRAL DOPANTS" LIQUID CRYSTALS, TAYLOR AND FRANCIS LTD, LONDON, GB, vol. 24, no. 6, 1 June 1998 (1998-06-01), pages 819-827, XP000773004 ISSN: 0267-8292 cited in the application the whole document ----- | 1,5,6 |
| A | DEUSSEN H-J ET AL: "NEW 6,-6-DISUBSTITUTED-BINAPHTHOL DERIVATIVES AS CHIRAL DOPANTS: SYNTHESIS AND TEMPERATURE DEPENDENCE OF MOLECULAR CONFORMATIONS" LIQUID CRYSTALS, TAYLOR AND FRANCIS LTD, LONDON, GB, vol. 21, no. 3, 1 September 1996 (1996-09-01), pages 327-340, XP000629493 ISSN: 0267-8292 cited in the application the whole document ----- | 1 |

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/SA/ 210

Continuation of Box I.2

Present claims 1-18 relate to an extremely large number of possible compounds, as well as liquid crystal mixtures comprising the claimed compounds, use of the claimed compounds and displays. Support within the meaning of Article 6 PCT and disclosure within the meaning of Article 5 PCT is to be found, however, for only a very small proportion of the compounds claimed. In the present case, the claims so lack support, and the application so lacks disclosure, that a meaningful search over the whole of the claimed scope is impossible.

Consequently, the search has been carried out for those parts of the claims which appear to be supported and disclosed, namely compounds recited in the examples 1-9 and a reasonable generalisation thereof.

The applicant's attention is drawn to the fact that claims, or parts of claims, relating to inventions in respect of which no international search report has been established need not be the subject of an international preliminary examination (Rule 66.1(e) PCT). The applicant is advised that the EPO policy when acting as an International Preliminary Examining Authority is normally not to carry out a preliminary examination on matter which has not been searched. This is the case irrespective of whether or not the claims are amended following receipt of the search report or during any Chapter II procedure.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/EP 01/10944

| Patent document cited in search report | | Publication date | | Patent family member(s) | Publication date |
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| | | | JP | 11302229 A | 02-11-1999 |